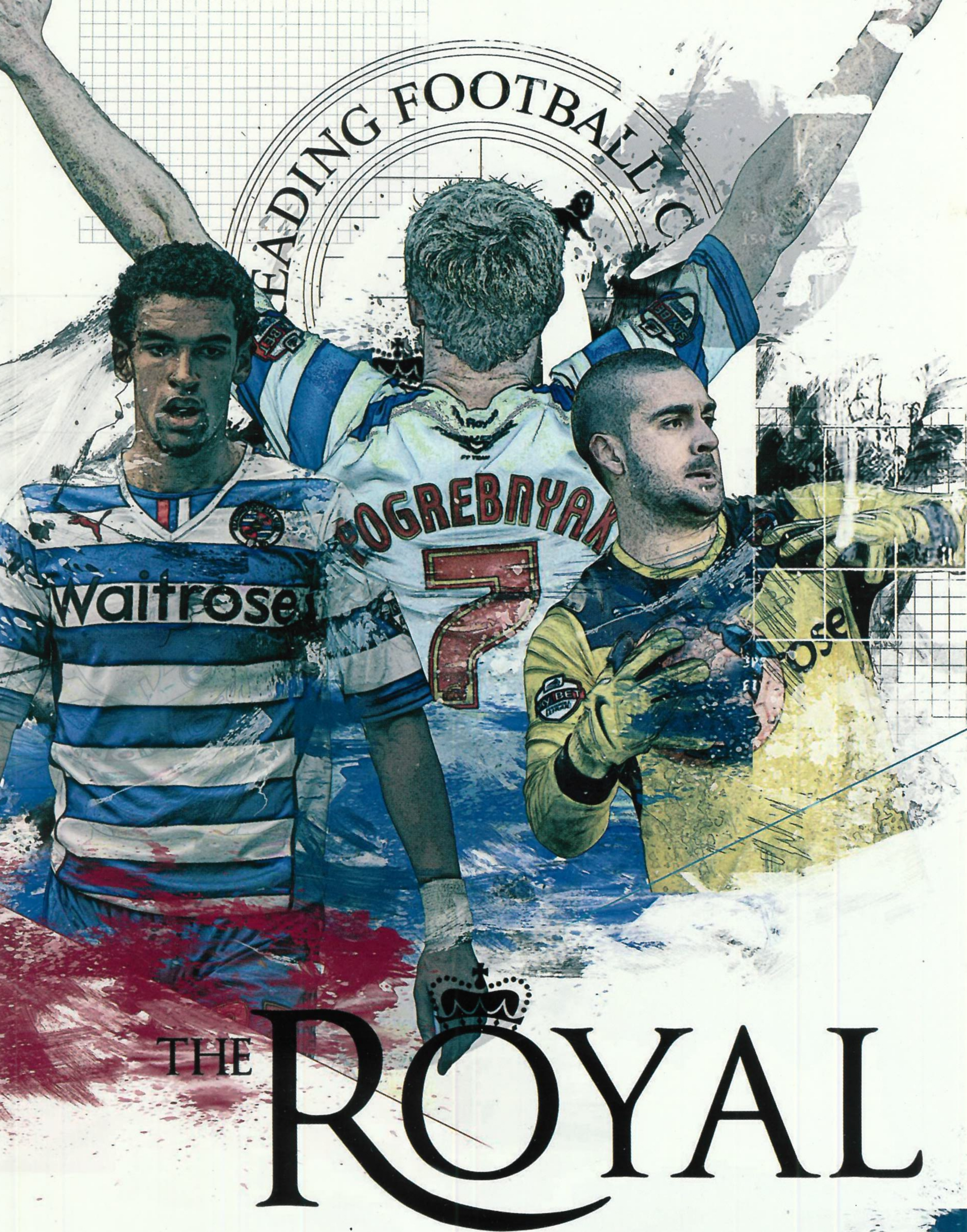




READING vs BOLTON WANDERERS
SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY 2014, 3PM



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ASST MANAGER: ANDY CROSBY

BOLTON WANDERERS

MANAGER: DOUGIE FREEDMAN

ASST MANAGER: LENNIE LAWRENCE

ADAM FEDERICI		01	01		ADAM BOGDAN
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JAKE TAYLOR		25	31		DAVID WHEATER
JASON ROBERTS		33	32		TOM EAVES
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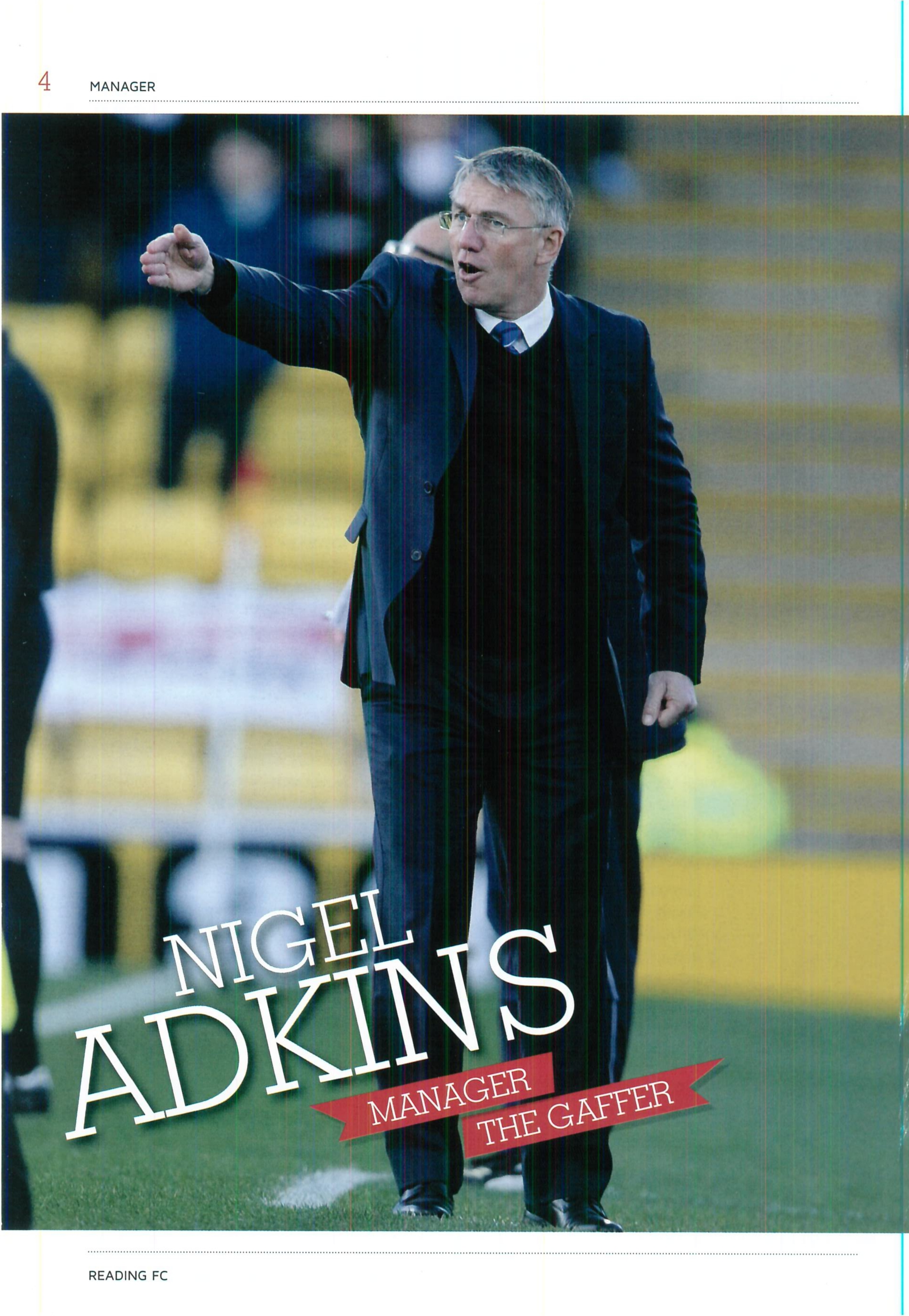
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TODAY'S PROGRAMME

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A full-page photograph of Nigel Adkins, manager of Reading FC, on a football pitch. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a dark blue sweater, a white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is gesturing with his right arm raised and pointing towards the left, with his mouth open as if shouting. The background shows a blurred crowd in a stadium with yellow and white seats.

NIGEL ADKINS

MANAGER
THE GAFFER

TEAMWORK AND TOGETHERNESS

THE HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE THAT THE PLAYERS HAVE BEEN PRODUCING ON THE TRAINING GROUND WAS EVIDENT IN LAST WEEKEND'S 1-0 VICTORY AT WATFORD.

Starting the game on the front foot with a flurry of crosses and pressure lead to Kaspars Gorkss' thunderous header from Jordan Obita's corner kick. The teamwork and togetherness of the players on the pitch was first class and the vocal support you gave the players from the stands was tremendous, and exactly what we need at this stage of the season. At Watford the players, staff and supporters were together as one, and that's how it will remain for the 21 league and possible three playoff games.

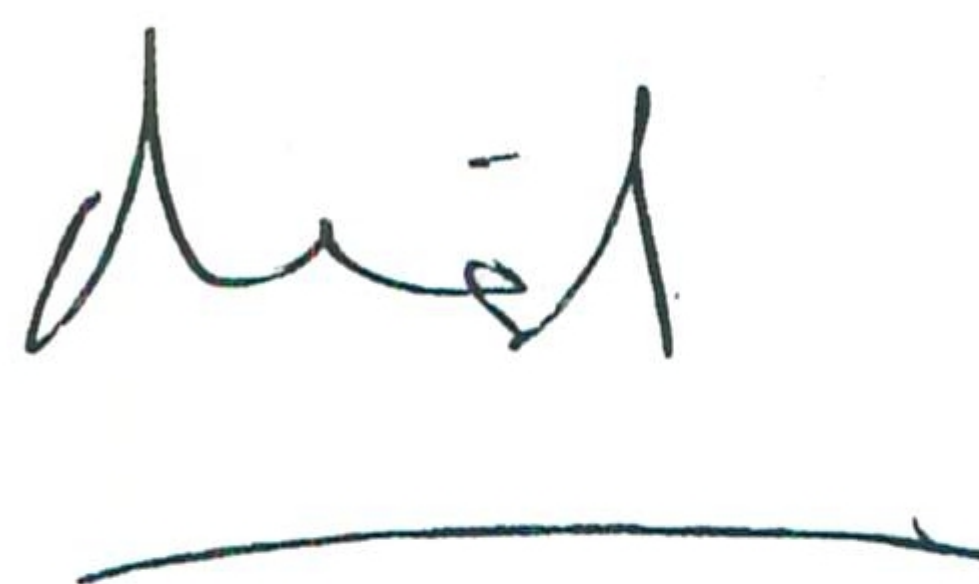
We look forward with a positivity to enjoying the second half of the season. There is obviously much speculation at this time of the season with the transfer window being open and the talk of new investors at the club. We remain totally focussed as staff and players on the challenge ahead.

This afternoon we welcome Dougie Freedman, his Bolton Wanderers side and supporters to Madejski Stadium in anticipation of an exciting game of football. We drew up at the Reebok at the start of the season and will be looking to go one better today.

On the injury front Wayne Bridge and Sean Morrison have stepped up their training as their rehabilitation of the knee injuries they have progressed in a positive manner and they are on track to return in February. It's been good to have Michael Hector training with us again following his impressive loan spell up at Aberdeen. Michael was on the bench last week and we will constantly assess his progress in the short term with his long term development in mind.

We have a commitment for the progression of our young players and we wish them well on Wednesday evening in the next round of the FA Youth Cup at home to Crewe Alexandra. If you're free that evening get down to the Madejski and give them your support.

Let's get behind our team today, enjoy the afternoon. Together as one!



STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO MADEJSKI STADIUM FOR TODAY'S GAME WITH BOLTON WANDERERS. IT'S GREAT TO BE WRITING THESE NOTES OFF THE BACK OF A VICTORY!

Saturday's trip to Vicarage Road ended in a very good result after what had been a disappointing little spell for us. Our previous home game against Forest saw us just managing to fight back and get that point. We then found ourselves out of the FA Cup with a defeat to Brighton. We were under no illusions and knew we needed to play better; nobody was happy with the performances. We really wanted to do well in the cup, but were left focussing on the league – and that's what we did in the run up to Watford.

It's my former club and a tough place to go and get a win so we were very, very pleased at the full time whistle. Everybody stepped up to the plate and we've shown what we can do. We've just got to keep that up now. Thanks to the fans who continue to follow us in numbers – it's nice to win a game for them especially after the bad spell we had. We had to dig in a little bit in the second half last weekend, but they helped us through it and we held on for the win.

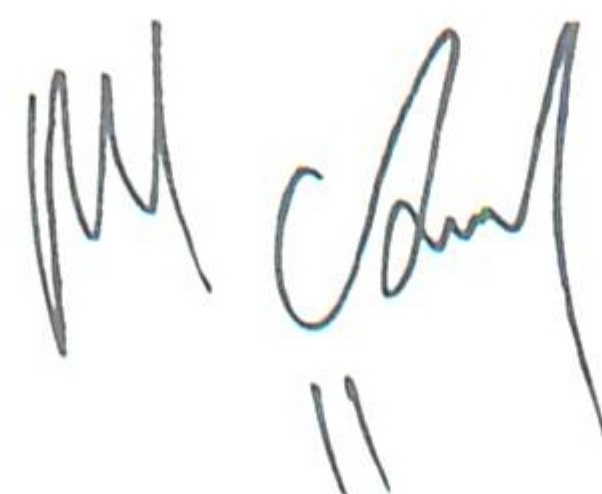
There were some top individual performances on the day – and I know Jordan Obita impressed many playing at left back. He's not played there that often, particularly in the first team, and I thought he handled it superbly. He looked very, very comfortable, dealt with some tough situations well and used the ball very well. From our point of view when people do perform like that, you have to give them that encouragement so they can perform again on the next occasion. It's part of my role as skipper. The fact that Jordan came through our Academy always makes it that little bit more special

for supporters I think, and there's a good chance for you all to see the next generation with our FA Youth Cup tie with Crewe on Wednesday night at Madejski Stadium. As always we've got some great kids coming through, we all know about the good history youth football has here and just how many progress to the first team. I remember when we were that age, it's such a big thing to play in the Youth Cup and of course we wish them all the best.

Back to today and we will be welcoming back a certain Matt Mills! He had a good spell here and it's always nice to see one of the old boys come back, and to shake hands before and after the game. That said for the 90 minutes out there it's a matter of getting after him, putting him under pressure and giving him a tough afternoon!

Bolton are a team that were tipped to do well, perhaps they haven't won as many games as they would have liked but that just shows how difficult this league can be. They are still a dangerous team and one that we have to respect. They have a lot of experience and a lot of quality in the squad.

As ever – I hope you can play your role and roar us on to another three points.



JOBI
MCANUFF

CAPTAIN
THE SKIPPER



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FROM THE HOME CAMP

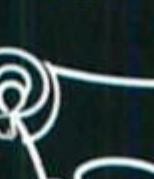
Danny Guthrie could miss out against his former team today, having been sidelined against Watford seven days ago with a calf problem. The midfielder spent the 2007/8 season at the Reebok, playing 25 times in the Premier League, as well as another ten games in all competitions, including a memorable UEFA Cup away game at Bayern Munich. Our injury list continues to be substantial – Nick Blackman’s back injury helped confine him to the bench last week, and he was then on the end of a heavy tackle late in the game so will be monitored. Jobi McAnuff was back from injury, while hopefully Hal Robson-Kanu will be a little closer to action very soon. Wayne Bridge, Sean Morrison, Chris Baird, Mikele Leigertwood, Jem Karacan and Jason Roberts are ruled out. Billy Sharp is back at Southampton, while Michael Hector has returned to Berkshire from a good loan at Aberdeen.



Striker Jermaine Beckford is set to miss out today, having come off against Nottingham Forest last weekend with a hamstring injury. At the other end of the pitch, Dougie Freedman has been without goalkeeper Adam Bogdan since the middle of October because of a knee problem, and he should be involved today. The Hungarian was our scourge when we played at the Reebok back in August, thanks to a series of good saves, but they have a very good replacement in Andy Lonergan, who has more than 300 career appearances under his belt. Also out for the visitors are defenders David Wheater, Marc Tierney and Tyrone Mears, while Craig Davies is unlikely to be ready. Freedman made two changes against Forest last weekend, bringing in Jay Spearing and Chung-Yong Lee for Medo and Andre Moritz, and with Beckford out he will have to tinker with his team again today.

FROM THE AWAY CAMP

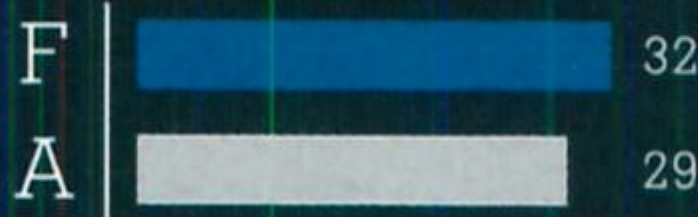
SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY

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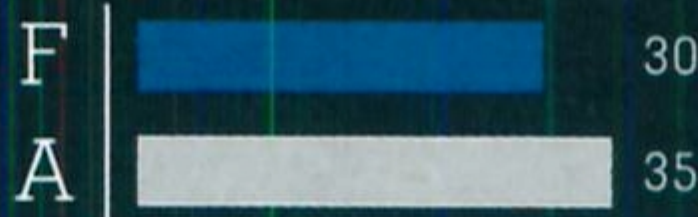
THIS SEASON

IN NUMBERS

ROYALS GOALS:



TROTTERS GOALS:



PLAYING AT MADEJSKI

Former Manchester United man Chris Eagles has played at Madejski Stadium six times for three different teams. He first graced our turf while on loan at Sheff Wed, coming on in the 63rd minute of a 2-0 Reading win in 2005. He was back later that season with Watford, playing the full 90 in a 0-0 draw as Reading cruised to the title. He returned with Burnley in 2008, appearing as a second half substitute in a 3-1 victory for Steve Coppell's side. Later that season though Eagles had the last laugh, coming on as an 84th minute sub for Wade Elliott with his side 2-0 up in the play-off semi-final second leg and on their way to the Premier League. In 2010 he started as the Royals won 1-0 here in the FA Cup, then in early 2011 he started again but lost 2-1, Shane Long scoring both goals for Brian McDermott's side.

CHRIS EAGLES as an opponent: Starts 3
Substitute 3 No. of clubs 3



MANAGING AT MADEJSKI

Dougie Freedman's managerial record against the Royals sees him unbeaten in four attempts, and this is his second trip to the Madejski Stadium dugout, having spoiled our end of season party in 2011/12 as his Crystal Palace side drew 2-2 here in our final home game of the title-winning season. Home and away, he has drawn once with us as boss of Bolton (1-1) and three times with Palace (3-3, 2-2 and 1-1). He scored in his last game against Reading as a player, a 2-2 draw at Selhurst Park, both Reading goals from Lloyd Owusu, and on his only Madejski Stadium playing appearance he came on in a 2-1 defeat in March 2003. Prior to that he lined up in a 0-0 at Elm Park while with Wolves, and scored at our former ground in a whopping 6-1 win with Palace – the only time he has beaten us as a player or manager in eight attempts.



DOUGIE FREEDMAN in the away dugout:
Played 1 Won 0 Drawn 1 Lost 0 Goals For 2
Goals Against 2



ROYALS' LAST XI

Watford 0-1 Reading

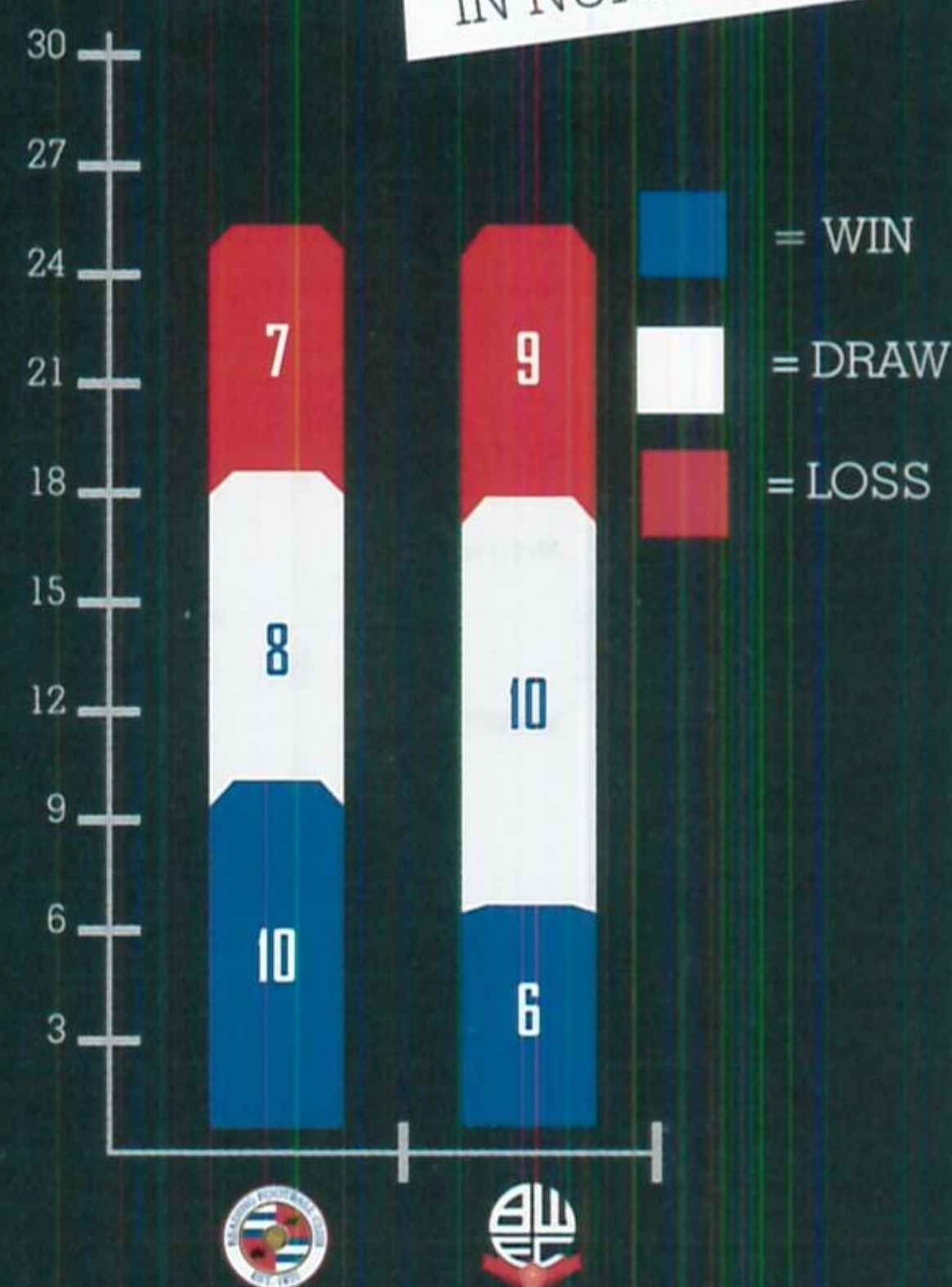


TROTTERS' LAST XI

Bolton 1-1 Nottm Forest



THIS SEASON IN NUMBERS



THE LAST



4



A MIDDLESBROUGH

0-3 L

Championship



H NOTTM FOREST

1-1 D

Championship



A BRIGHTON

0-1 L

FA Cup



A WATFORD

1-0 W

Championship

A RECENT MEET



08.02.97

When Bolton came to Elm Park in early 1997, it was the first time we had hosted Wanderers since the cruel play-off final defeat two seasons earlier. Colin Todd's side had come straight back down from the top flight, and despite Reading's indifferent form we were in no mood to let them beat us once again. The game exploded into life early in the second half as Trevor Morley scored on 56, only for Alan Thompson to equalise on 61. Just a minute later Morley got a penalty, but then John McGinlay made it 2-2 within three minutes. Morley was not to be outdone by scoring his hat-trick on 70, making it three goals for him in 14 minutes and five goals in the same amount of time. Wanderers went on to win the League while the Royals finished 18th and were relegated the following year.

MAKING HIS MARK



02.12.06

The late Gary Speed made his sole Madejski Stadium League appearance while a Bolton player, starting alongside the likes of Nicolas Anelka, El-Hadji Diouf, Kevin Davies and Kevin Nolan. It was another Kevin – our very own Doyle – who made his mark on the game with a typical goal on 33 minutes; enough to separate the two sides. Unfortunately for us, the Trotters finished one point and one place above us that season, their 56 points seeing them finish seventh in the table and therefore qualifying for Europe despite a goal difference that was ten worse than ours. The game was one of 11 home wins for us that year – only bettered by Man Utd, Chelsea, Liverpool, Arsenal and Tottenham.

PREVIOUS IN NO.S



RFC WINS	DRAWN	BOLTON WINS
10	5	13

REF ON RECORD!



This afternoon's man in the middle will be Mr Andy Davies.

LAST MATCH:

08.01.2014 Crawley 1-2 Bristol Rovers (FA Cup)

**2013-14
GAMES**

18



71



3

THE LAST
4



A LEICESTER

3-5 L

Championship



H MIDDLESBROUGH

2-2 D

Championship



H BLACKPOOL

2-1 W

FA Cup



A NOTTM FOREST

1-1 D

Championship

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Here at Madejski Stadium we are constantly striving to improve the matchday experience, and we have developed a number of ways to improve food and beverage purchases, in conjunction with our catering partners Compass.



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In the East and West Stands, you can now pre-purchase your half time pint and hotdog to avoid waiting. Before the game, look out for our sellers, or buy your token from the bars in the middle of the East and West concourse. You can then go to the collection points at half time - which are fully signed and have replaced our bookmakers' stalls at Y23 and G8 - and pick up your items.



UPPER WEST: ORDER FROM YOUR SEAT:

Supporters in the Upper West can order food from their seat on the day, and either have it delivered to the seat or available for collection at the bar. Download the 'qikserve' app on the App Store or Google Play, scan the barcode on your seat, create an account then place your order.



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Families coming to the game can customise and order a special Kingsley kids bag and have it delivered to your seat anywhere in the ground! Go to madejskistadiumcatering.co.uk in the days leading up to the game, place your custom order for the game and you'll have your lunch brought to you. Cut-off point to order is midday on Friday for 3pm Saturday games.



AFTER THE GAME

The North Stand concourse is open for an hour after the match for food and drink.

17 | KASPARS GORKSS

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT PASSION AND PRIDE IN PLAYING FOR YOUR SHIRT, JUST ASK KASPARS GORKSS WHAT IT MEANS TO HIM TO CAPTAIN HIS COUNTRY.

Naturally to understand the origins of a man's patriotism you have to delve into his past, and the 32-year-old Latvian has a fascinating story to tell. Growing up in the Soviet Union, the defender's love of the beautiful game

came despite the limitations of life behind the Iron Curtain, as the man himself told this afternoon's edition *The Royal*.

"I always loved football. At the time I grew up, we were still in the Soviet Union, which meant the possibilities to buy football magazines and stuff

CONTINUED
OVERLEAF





"MY LOVE OF THE GAME CAME FROM MY DAD BEING AN ABSOLUTE FOOTBALL NUTTER!"

like that were quite limited – but I always enjoyed playing in the park with my friends or what have you," explains Kaspars.

"I guess that love of the game came from my Dad being an absolute football nutter! I remember him still managing to buy a lot of magazines despite the restrictions and reading them.

For someone coming out of the UK it sounds crazy, but the television programmes were quite limited as well.

I still remember managing to watch the Euros and World Cups – I was a big fan of the Dutch national team, when they won the 1988 Euros. That's my all time favourite team. I'm a big AC Milan supporter for the same reason, the three Dutchmen that were playing there.

"I didn't really start training until I was around 13, that's when I actually learned how to play football."

By that stage the iconic pictures of the Berlin Wall's demise had been beamed around the world; the USSR was no more – and Latvia had gained its independence. Gorkss' memories of those famous days conjure up images worthy of the silver screen, even if the political enormity of it all didn't quite hit home to the football mad child of the time.

"I was ten at the time. The one thing





DEFENDER

NO.17

CAREER
HIGHLIGHTS

I do remember is the actual fall.

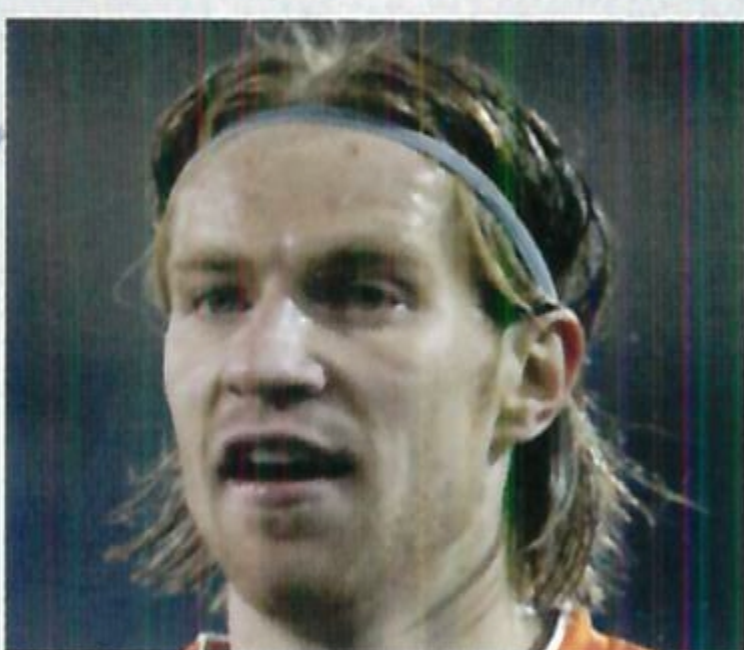
There were three days of people on the streets getting together, and me sitting in a dark house listening to the radio! We wanted to know – would we get our independence without a fight, or would there be some kind of war going on? I recollect running to the road and seeing tanks and stuff like that, but thank God nothing more went on.

"As a kid you don't feel it too much, you need simple things in your life – you don't think that before you couldn't read certain books or watch certain programmes. Only now, looking back, I can relate to that."

Fast forward to December 2005, and Gorkss was making his international debut in Latvian colours. Three years later he would pull on the captain's armband for the first time – before eventually being elected as permanent skipper by his peers.

"I think being able to play for your country is a big enough thing anyway, before you even mention the captaincy. I think the first time I got the captain's armband...we played Romania away. Our captain came off and I got to wear the armband for most of the second half. It was quite a big, big moment for me. When the lads voted me as a captain – that's one of the proudest things in my career. To be able to lead your country out on the pitch, it's hard to describe really – there's all sorts of emotions. It's very often not that easy to explain."

Former Premier League striker Marians Pahars is currently in charge of the national side – a man his skipper believes was a "legend" as a player. (Incidentally, Gorkss is the only Latvian other than his national manager to score goal in the Premier League). "He wants to win," cites the towering centre back. "He's very ambitious. He doesn't want to come in and settle for winning against weaker



teams and then losing to stronger teams. He's that type of manager that wants to have a go every game."

Euro 2016? Watch this space.

With 43 goals in just over 100 league starts at Southampton, Pahars was certainly one of England's most successful foreign imports at the turn of the millennium – with his performances transcending the difficulties that a change in culture can sometimes bring to a player. Kaspars himself certainly settled in quickly to the British game after arriving at Blackpool in 2006 – his English skills already honed during a spell with Swedish club Assyriska Föreningen, where he was tutored by a Canadian teammate. Indeed his Americanised accent was quickly noticed by his new Tangerines colleagues, and he was given the nickname 'Chad' upon arrival at Bloomfield Road! Perhaps a mutual appreciation of fitting in on foreign soil is what led to the central defender striking up a friendship with fellow Royal Pavel Pogrebnyak. Both men are Russian speakers – and the duo having certainly formed a bond at Hogwood Park.

"He's probably the teammate I spend the most time with outside of the training ground. We've known each other for two years now, obviously the language helps us – we can communicate better than with the rest of the squad. He's a great guy, a great player on the pitch and a good guy off of it. There's not much to it really. I think performances on the pitch speak for themselves. He can give a hard time to any defender in this league, his attitude in training is very good. I can't praise him any more really."

Last weekend's win over Watford exemplified the qualities of both those individuals. Pogrebnyak battled the Hornets backline into submission, whilst Gorkss headed home a winner

early on in a performance that typified the type of guts and determination that have previously won him back to back promotions from the Championship. It could, however, have been so different. Last season the Latvian was not at the forefront of Reading fans' minds, as he played out a loan spell at Wolverhampton Wanderers whilst the Royals battled against relegation from the top flight. You could have been forgiven for assuming the defender was on his way out of Madejski Stadium... but those who know the man's character would have been more optimistic.

"Last season I didn't know myself really what was going on. I went on loan to Wolves, whilst I was there the managers changed – and before this season I didn't really know where my place was. I've always been that type of player who just gets his head down and tries to get back into the team, that's all I've done this season. In general there have been some good things we've done, but in my opinion we are underperforming a little bit.

"I think it's up to us to improve and show that we are capable of achieving our own goals. We want to be back in the Premier League, I know at times it's frustrating – trust me it's frustrating for ourselves that we can't put together two similar halves! That's probably one of our biggest issues, just to put

a complete performance in and build on that. You know how football is, you start losing games, you lose confidence and confidence is a big thing. Your luck goes when your confidence goes, but we try to stick together and find the positives to build on – hopefully results will show that."

So to finish off...for a man who has enjoyed so much success at this level of football, both with the Royals and down the road at Queens Park Rangers – what's the key to success? Turns out, it's not that simple.

"Wow. If I had that complete formula, I could put a patent on it and sell it to managers or players! But I think every team is different. There are different characters, every day you need to deal with 20-odd people with different characters and different problems. In my opinion football is a team game, the first thing you need to do is to put the team together because the team will be the ones who wins you the games. One or two players can shine in the odd game and maybe one game a single player will be brilliant and win it on his own, but it's a long season and it's a hard week. So it's about togetherness and willingness to work hard with each other, don't look at excuses just try to be 100% every day."





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VENUE	DATES	DAYS	AGE	TIME	COST
THE DOME, Madejski Stadium, Reading RG2 0FL	MONDAY 17TH & TUESDAY 18TH FEB 2014	2	6 TO 14	9AM-3PM	£42.00 (no individual days)
HENWICK PLAYING FIELDS Henwick Lane, Thatcham, RG18 3BN	MONDAY 17TH TO FRIDAY 21ST FEB 2014	5	6 TO 14	10AM-3PM	£55 for 5 days/ £16 day
THE GOALS CENTRE Woodlands Avenue, Woodley RG5 3EU	MONDAY 17TH TO FRIDAY 21ST FEB 2014	5	6 TO 14	10AM-3PM	£55 for 5 days/ £16 per day
GOALKEEPERS AT THE GOALS CENTRE Woodlands Avenue, Woodley	THURSDAY 20TH & FRIDAY 21ST FEB 2014	2	6 TO 14	10AM-3PM	£28 FOR 2 DAYS /£16 per day
GIRLS ONLY AT THE GOALS CENTRE Woodlands Avenue, Woodley RG5 3EU	TUESDAY 18TH AND WEDNESDAY 19TH FEB 2014	2	6 TO 14	10AM-3PM	£28 FOR 2 DAYS /£16 per day
ZEBON COPSE COMMUNITY CENTRE Danvers Drive, Church Crookham, GU52 0ZE	THURSDAY 20TH & FRIDAY 21ST FEB 2014	2	6 TO 14	10AM-3PM	£30 for 2 days / £16 per day



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VENUE	DATES	DAYS	AGE	TIME	COST
THE DOME, Madejski Stadium, Reading RG2 0FL	MONDAY 7TH & TUESDAY 8TH APRIL 2014	2	6 TO 14	9AM - 3PM	£42.00 (no individual days)
HENWICK PLAYING FIELDS Henwick Lane, Thatcham, RG18 3BN	MONDAY 7TH TO FRIDAY 11TH APRIL 2014	5	6 TO 14	10AM - 3PM	£55 for 5 days/ £16 day
ZEBON COPSE COMMUNITY CENTRE Danvers Drive, Church Crookham, GU52 0ZE	MONDAY 7TH & TUESDAY 8TH APRIL 2014	2	6 TO 14	10AM - 3PM	£30 for 2 days / £16 per day
****PALMER PARK Palmer Park Stadium, Wokingham Road, Reading RG6 1LF	THURSDAY 10TH & FRIDAY 11TH APRIL 2014	2	5-7 yrs 8-12 yrs	10AM - 12noon 10AM - 3PM	£6 per day 5-7 yrs £12 per day 8-12yrs

**** - PALMER PARK - all Bookings for Palmer Park to be made with Reading Borough Council - Contact Number 0118 901 5080 - 5 - year olds may only participate on Morning sessions

EASTER SOCCER SCHOOLS WEEK 1 MONDAY 14th APRIL TO THURSDAY 17th APRIL 2014

THE GOALS CENTRE Woodlands Avenue, Woodley RG5 3EU	MONDAY 14th. TO THURSDAY 17TH APRIL 2014	4	6 TO 14	10AM -3PM	£50 for 4 days/ £16 per day
GIRLS ONLY AT THE GOALS CENTRE Woodlands Avenue, Woodley RG5 3EU	TUESDAY 15TH AND WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 2014	2	6 TO 14	10AM - 3PM	£28 FOR 2 DAYS /£16 per day
GOALKEEPERS AT THE GOALS CENTRE Woodlands Avenue, Woodley RG5 3EU	WEDNESDAY 16TH & THURSDAY 17TH APRIL 2014	2	6 TO 14	10AM -3PM	£28 FOR 2 DAYS /£16 per day
ZEBON COPSE COMMUNITY CENTRE Danvers Drive, Church Crookham, GU52 0ZE	WEDNESDAY 16TH & THURSDAY 17TH APRIL 2014	2	6 TO 14	10AM - 3PM	£30 for 2 days / £16 per day
****PALMER PARK Palmer Park Stadium, Wokingham Road, Reading RG6 1LF	WEDNESDAY 16TH & THURSDAY 17TH APRIL 2014	2	5-7 yrs 8-12 yrs	10AM - 12noon 10AM - 3PM	£6 per day 5-7 yrs £12 per day 8-12yrs
THE DOME, Madejski Stadium, Reading RG2 0FL	THURSDAY 17th APRIL 2014	1	6 TO 14	9AM - 3PM	£20 FOR THE DAY

**** - PALMER PARK - all Bookings for Palmer Park to be made with Reading Borough Council - Contact Number 0118 901 5080 - 5 - year olds may only participate on Morning sessions

MARUSSIA



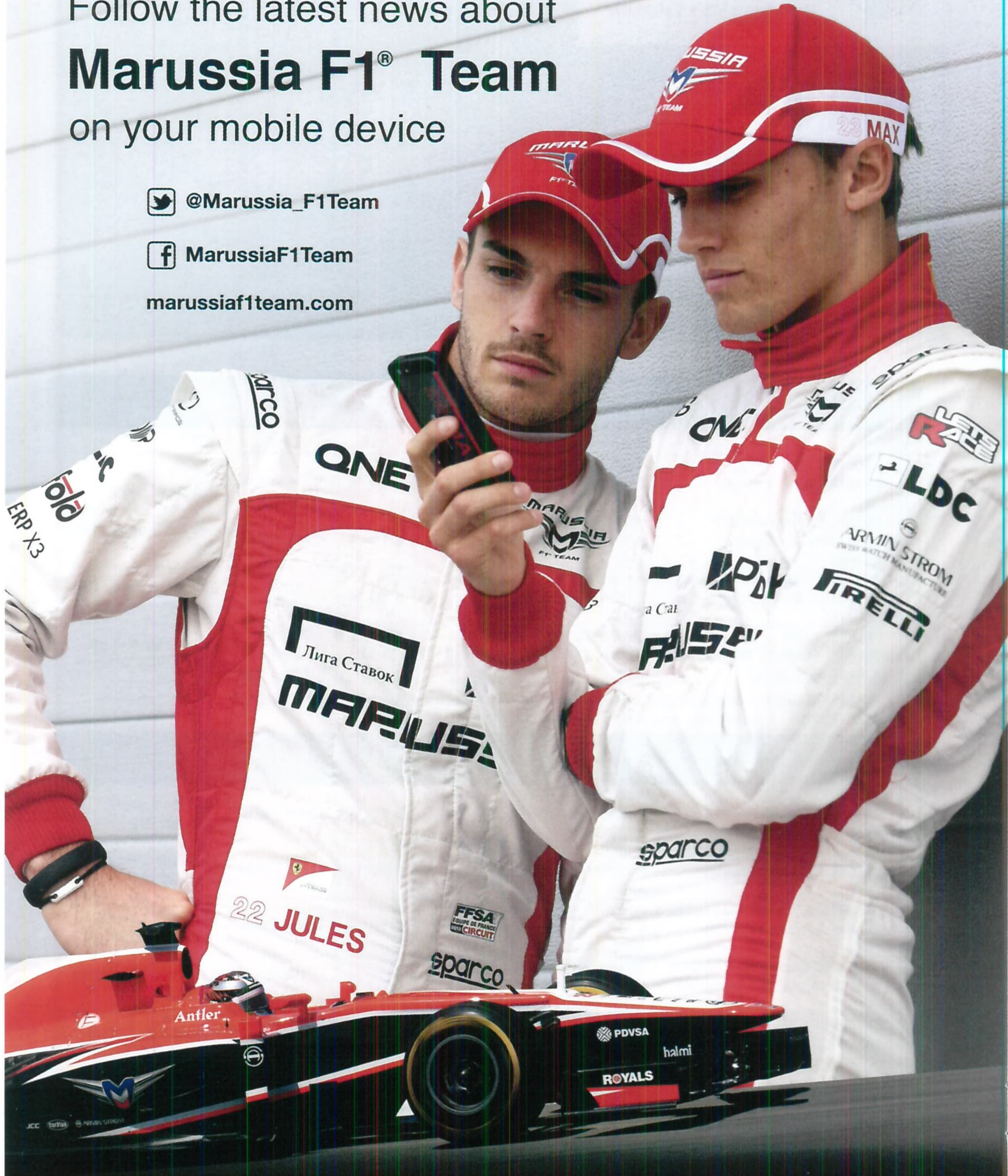
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Date: Wednesday 1st January • Venue: Madejski Stadium • Referee: Michael Oliver • Attendance: 19,873



READING
(KELLY 90)

1-1

NOTTM FOREST
(HALFORD 36)



47%

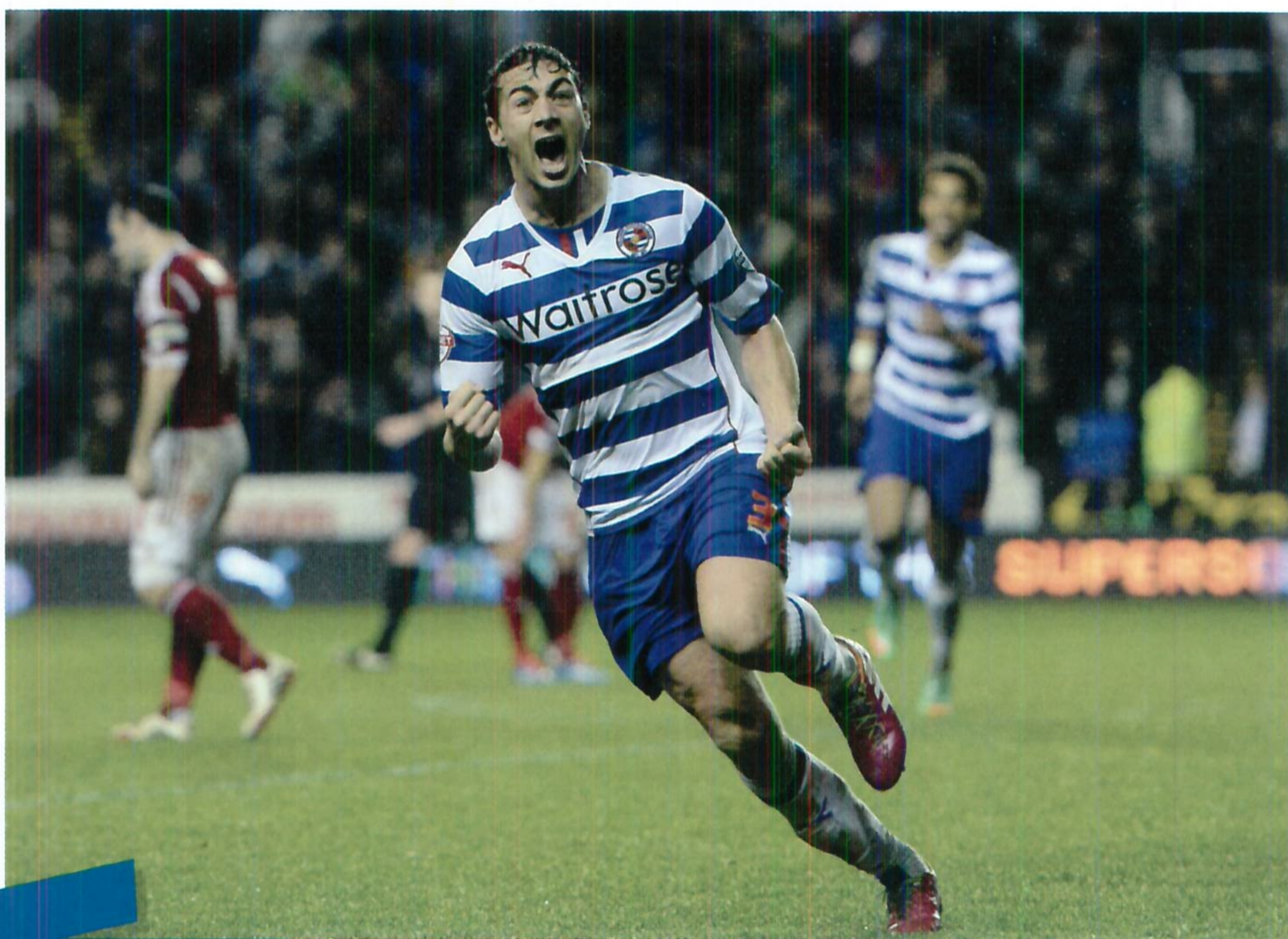


53%

POSSESSION

LINE-UP (4-4-2): McCarthy, Cummings (J Taylor 82), Kelly, Gunter, Pearce, Guthrie, Williams, McCleary (Drenthe 59), Blackman, Pogrebnyak, Sharp (Le Fondre 59).
SUBS NOT USED: Federici, Keown, Sweeney, Akpan.

LINE UP (4-5-1): Darlow, Jara, Lichaj, Hobbs, Lascelles, Chalobah (Greening 81), Paterson, Reid, Mackie (Derbyshire 68), Lansbury, Halford (Cox 68).
SUBS NOT USED: de Vries, Osborn, Harding, Majewski.



"DELIGHTED
TO BE INVOLVED
TODAY! EVEN
BETTER THE BOYS
BATTLED ON AND
GOT A POINT!
#URZ"

@PIERCESWEENEY1

When you haven't scored since May 2005, there's no better time to pop up with another goal than the 90th minute. That's exactly what Stephen Kelly did in our New Year's Day game against Nottingham Forest, heading home Royston Drenthe's free kick to earn us a point against Billy Davies' side.

Both of Forest's scorers at the City Ground earlier in the season were former Reading men in Simon Cox and Darius Henderson, so it was probably kismet that Greg Halford found the net with a towering header late in the first half.

After the break Forest had chances to put the game out of sight, particularly through sub Matt Derbyshire, who spurned

MATCH SHOW REEL



two excellent opportunities. But Reading rode the storm and into the closing stages were pushing desperately for a winner, Danny Guthrie seeing a shot very well saved, so too man of the match Nick Blackman.

Alex Pearce saw a header cleared off the line, and in the fifth minute of stoppage time Kelly rose highest to head home Drenthe's set piece, giving Karl Darlow no chance as it nestled inside the post to see Reading start 2014 with a positive result. And with ten players sidelined through injury or suspension.

""WE'VE BEEN DECIMATED THROUGH INJURIES, WE'VE GOT TEN PLAYERS OUT WHO CONCEIVABLY COULD BE STARTING GAMES BUT IT SHOWS THAT THE GROUP ARE PULLING FOR EACH OTHER.""

NIGEL ADKINS



HEAD2HEAD



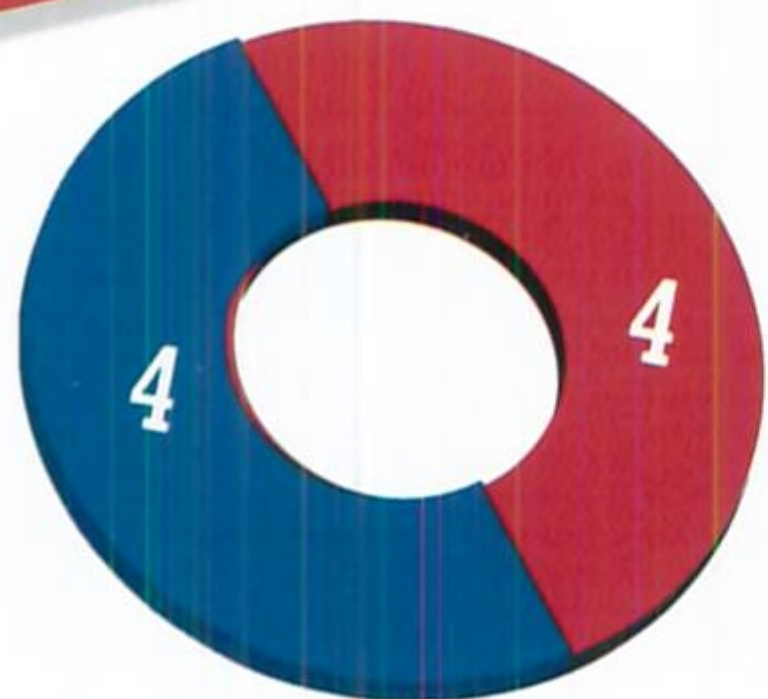


STAT

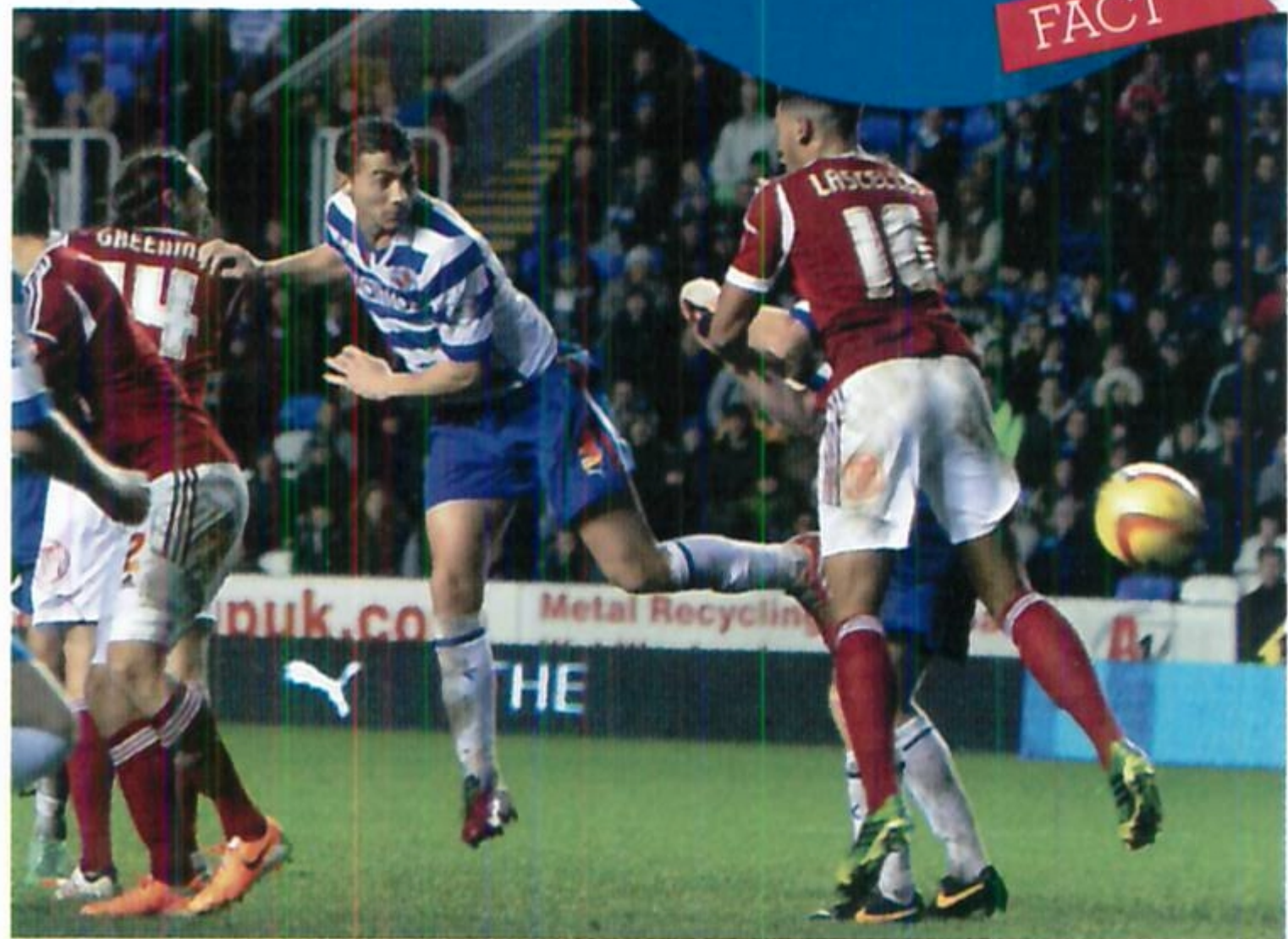
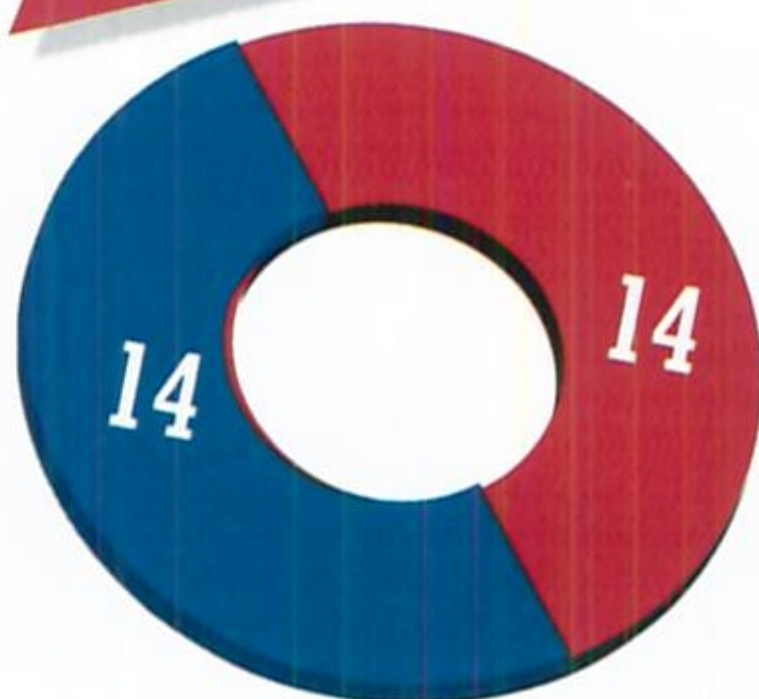
READING HAVE ONLY LOST ONE OF THEIR NINE HOME GAMES AGAINST NOTTM FOREST SINCE 1950.

FACT

CORNERS



FOULS



KEY MOMENT

85 mins

85 mins After spurning two chances at the other end, Matt Derbyshire heads off his line to deny Alex Pearce.

90 mins



0 mins

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THE ROYAL BULLETIN



QPR MOVED

The Royals' away game at Loftus Road has been selected for live Sky Sports coverage, and will kick off at 3:30pm on Sunday 16th February.

The game will be all ticket and seats for Royals fans are on sale now – see page 65 for more details.

HECTOR BACK



Royals defender Michael Hector is back at the Club after a very successful loan spell up at Aberdeen. The youngster made a real impression north of the border with his displays at both right back and centre back, and he went straight into the squad for the Royals' game at Watford last week, his first involvement with us at senior level.

Meanwhile, Billy Sharp is back at Southampton after his loan at Madejski Stadium, while our man Dominic Samuel awaits news on a knee injury he picked up on his loan debut for Dagenham & Redbridge.

CURLEY'S DAY OUT

Local youth side Curley Park Rangers had a great day out at Madejski Stadium for the Wigan game – they were our pitchside Guard Of Honour before the game, and after going to the Fun Zone they bumped into Chairman Sir John Madejski!

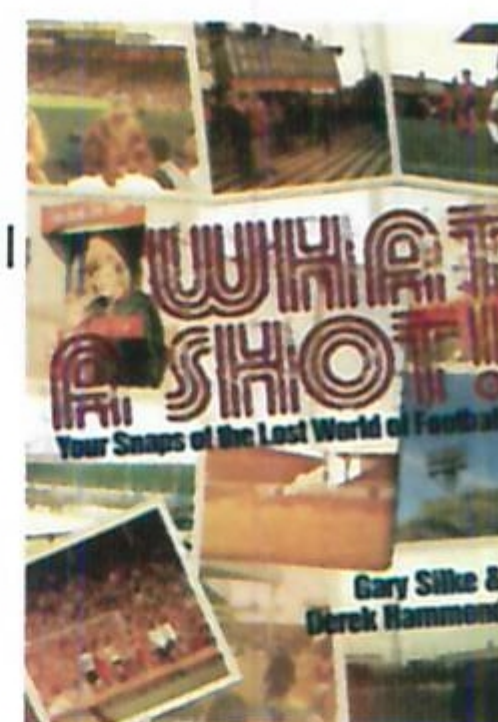
To find out more on our match day experiences please contact Josh Pilsbury on 0118 968 1067 or email JPilsbury@readingfc.co.uk



BOOK COMPETITION

The Royals have a great new book to give away – What A Shot!

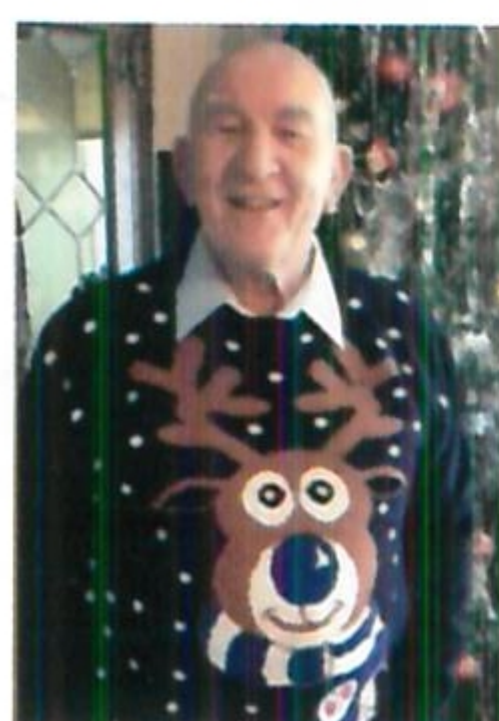
Featuring classic old photos of football grounds in the past, it's a great gift for a football fan, or as a special memento for yourself! Fans of every age will have a real interest in this book which is currently on Amazon at just £9.09. For your chance to win a copy, email editor@readingfc.co.uk with the subject What A Shot.



CHARITY COLLECTION

Today's charity bucket collection is for Woodley Age Concern, please give generously to this very worthy cause.

CONGRATS ROY!



Roy Pearcey is celebrating his 90th birthday on Wednesday and his granddaughter is bringing him to the game today to celebrate!



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Date: Saturday 4th January • Venue: AmEx Stadium • Referee: Chris Foy • Attendance: 20,696



BRIGHTON
(BARNES 32)

1-0

READING



47%

53%

POSSESSION

LINE-UP (4-3-3): Brezovan, Calderon, Chicksen, Greer (Dunk 67), El-Abd, Andrews, Agustien (Orlandi 64), Forster-Caskey, March (LuaLua 79), Crofts, Barnes.

SUBS NOT USED: Ankergrén, Ward, Ulloa, Ince.

LINE UP (4-3-3): Federici; Gunter, Kelly (Williams 73), Gorkss, Pearce, Guthrie, Obita, Taylor, McCleary (Pogrebnyak 85), Blackman (Drenthe 57), Le Fondre.

SUBS NOT USED: McCarthy, Long, Sweeney, Tanner.



"I'VE BEEN HERE FOR 14 YEARS NOW SO TO GET MY FIRST START IS WHAT I'VE BEEN AIMING FOR. BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT WASN'T THE RESULT WE WERE LOOKING FOR."

JAKE TAYLOR

Sadly Reading's FA Cup dream went no further than the third round after a 1-0 defeat at the AmEx.

The Royals started the game well, but Brighton then started to get shots at goal, and with

Adam Federici in excellent form it took a huge deflection to beat him from long range. Federici had brilliantly tipped one Keith Andrews effort onto the bar, with Ashley Barnes nodding the rebound onto the woodwork. The frame of the goal was hit once more as Brighton searched

MATCH SHOW REEL



for a goal, but only had one strike to their name despite being on top.

Into the second half though and Reading began to turn the flow of the game, Adam Le Fondre unlucky to see a clever flick turned away by Peter Brezovan. Alfie then had an opportunity from an excellent Jake Taylor cross but couldn't get it on target from 12 yards.

Then with time almost up, the script was so nearly written for full debutant Jake Taylor, but he couldn't keep his left-footed effort down from eight yards and sadly as the ball rose into the away end, our FA Cup dream went with it for another year; Brighton progressing to round four at our expense.

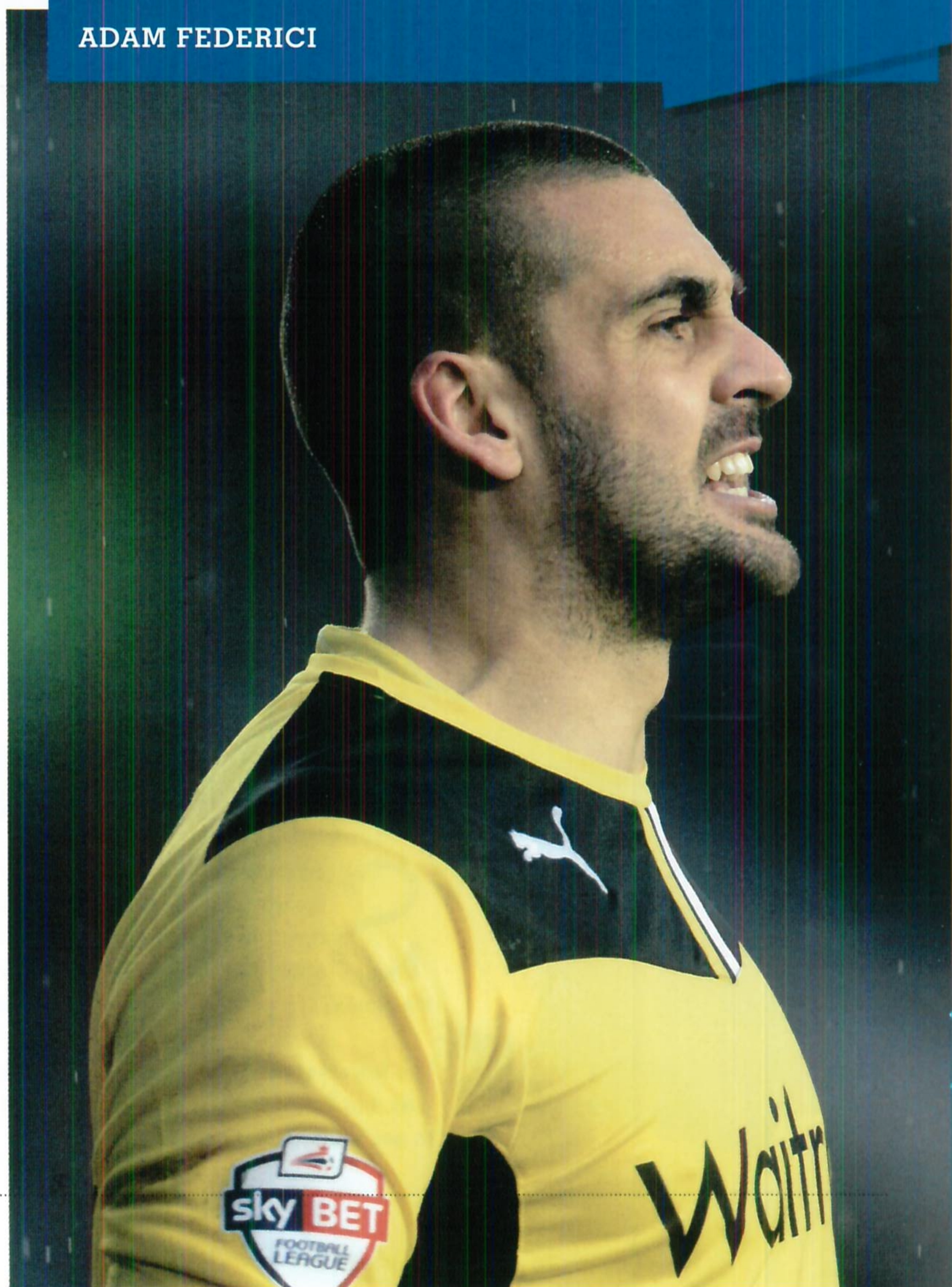
HEAD2HEAD



READING FC

"THE WAY WE'VE BEEN PERFORMING IN THE SECOND HALF OF GAMES, WE JUST NEED A FULL PERFORMANCE OUT OF THE BOYS AND WE'LL STARTING WINNING GAMES."

ADAM FEDERICI



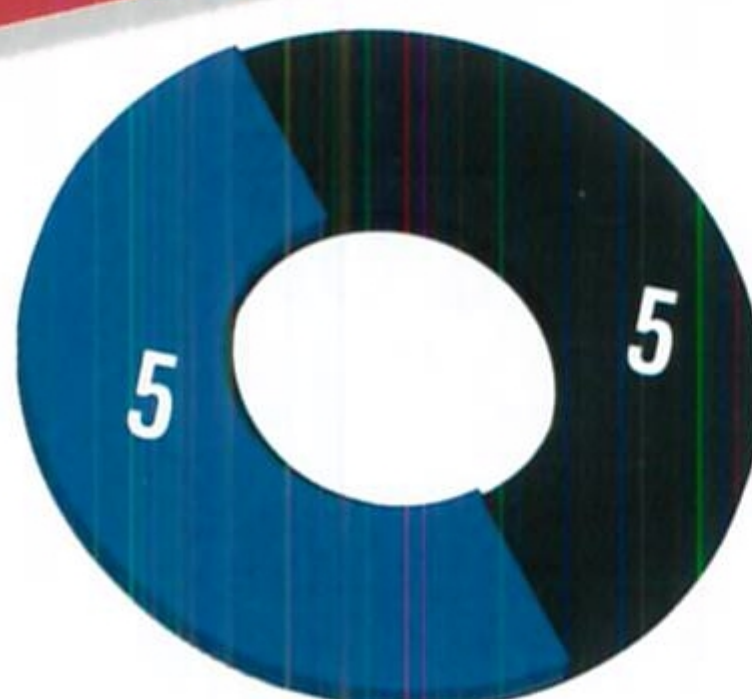


STAT

THIS WAS THE FIRST EVER FA CUP GAME BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

FACT

CORNERS



FOULS



90 mins

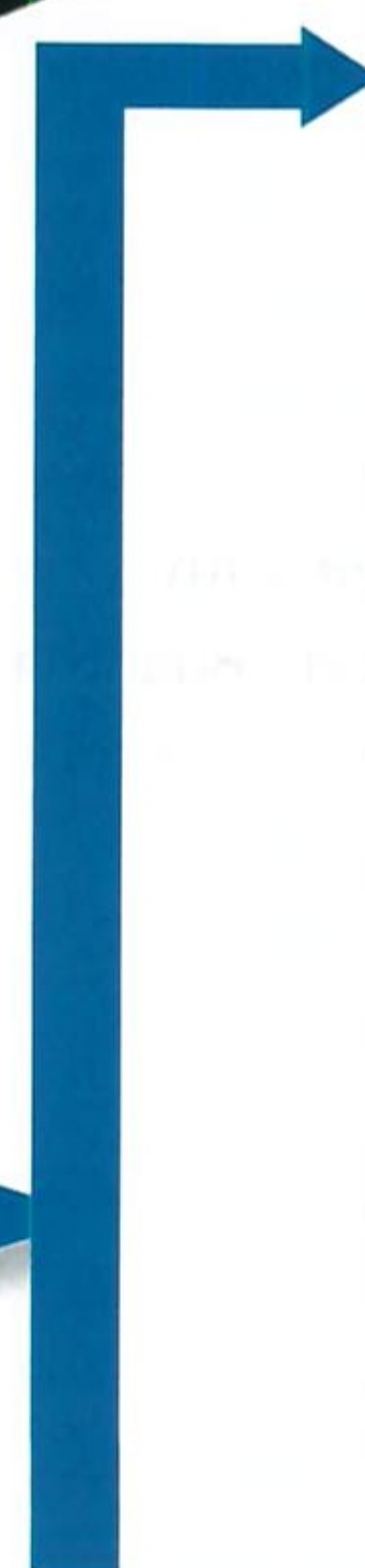


0 mins

KEY MOMENT

65 mins

65 mins Adam Le Fondre flicks a clever effort goalwards, only to be denied by Peter Brezovan.





A CHARACTER
REFERENCE

BOBBY WILLIAMS

CLUB HISTORIAN DAVID DOWNS INTRODUCES SOME OF THE GREAT CHARACTERS WHO HAVE REPRESENTED THE ROYALS THROUGHOUT THE AGES...

One of the great unsung heroes of Reading Football Club is Bobby Williams, who signed professional forms for the Biscuitmen as long ago as 1969, and is still working for the Royals in a scouting capacity 45 years later.

And all this despite being forced to play rugby at his Bristol secondary school, though young Royal Robert showed enough talent with the round rather than the oval ball to earn selection for an FA Youth XI, and to be invited to join his home town club, Bristol City, aged 18, in 1958. He earned the nickname 'Shadow' which has stayed with him ever since due to his ability to ghost through defences, and formed a successful trio with England international John Atyeo and Brian Clark. His career at City was a distinguished one – he scored 83 goals in 219 first team games, won Gloucestershire Senior Cup medals, was a member of the team which won promotion to Division Two in 1964-65, and scored one of the goals in Bristol City's record win, an 11-0 victory over non-league Chichester City in a First Round FA Cup tie.

Next came a couple of seasons at Rotherham United, then managed by Jack Mansell and a return to Bristol, this time to play for the Rovers, before Bobby signed for Reading on a free transfer in August 1969. Mansell had been appointed as Reading's manager a couple of months previously and enlisted Bobby, along with Rotherham colleague Les Chappell, to play in a five-man forward line to conceive a brand of attacking



The scene at Elm Park when Bobby captained the Royals against Manchester United.

football which had not been seen since the days of Ted Drake in the early 1950's.

The small but sophisticated attack of Cumming, Chappell, Habbin, Wagstaff and Williams contributed to the majority of the 87 goals which earned Reading, as the highest scoring team in Division Three, a place in the Watney Cup competition of 1970-71. Bobby had the honour of captaining Reading against a Manchester United team which included three European Footballers of the Year – George Best, Bobby Charlton and Denis Law – but the league campaign was not a good one and at the end of it, Reading were relegated

to the basement of Division Four for the first time in the club's history.

Given a free transfer, he moved to the continent to play for Belgian club ASO Ostend, along with other ex-Biscuitmen Denis Allen and Roger Smee. Next came a spell with Southern League Weymouth, and it was while he was driving back to Reading after an evening match that Bobby was involved in a crash which meant the end of his professional career. With his four clubs he had made a total of 238 Football League appearances and scored 115 goals.

Bobby had always wanted to be a manager when he finished playing, but he had, to ensure his family's security, to take employment outside the game whilst remaining involved at Elm Park on a part-time basis and also contributing match reports on local football to the Reading Chronicle. He assisted first-team manager Maurice Evans by running the reserve team which played in the Football Combination, and was heavily involved in the club's Centre of Excellence

from its inception in 1984. He managed the South Eastern Counties and Allied Counties youth teams for many years, and a conservative estimate is that he played a major part in the development of at least 40 young players who graduated to professional contracts with the club. And his family were involved too, as wife Brenda worked in the Elm Park offices and son Nick made regular appearances in the youth and reserve XIs.

Bob's love of the game meant that he continued to play for the staff team in charity and friendly matches until well into his fifties, though the one game I persuaded him to play for the Beetle & Wedge XI at Wallingford resulted in him entering the Royal Berkshire Hospital the next day for a hip replacement! Undeterred, he remains a loyal servant of Reading FC, scouting at league and non-league grounds for young, up and coming players who may enhance the standing of his beloved club.



Captains Bobby Williams (Reading) and Bobby Charlton (Manchester United) toss for choice of ends before the 1970 Watney Cup tie. Referee Ray Tinkler looks on. Reading were beaten 3-2 in an exciting encounter.

Bobby Williams made a total of 65 Football League appearances for Reading, scoring 21 goals. He also played in 7 cup matches, scoring once.



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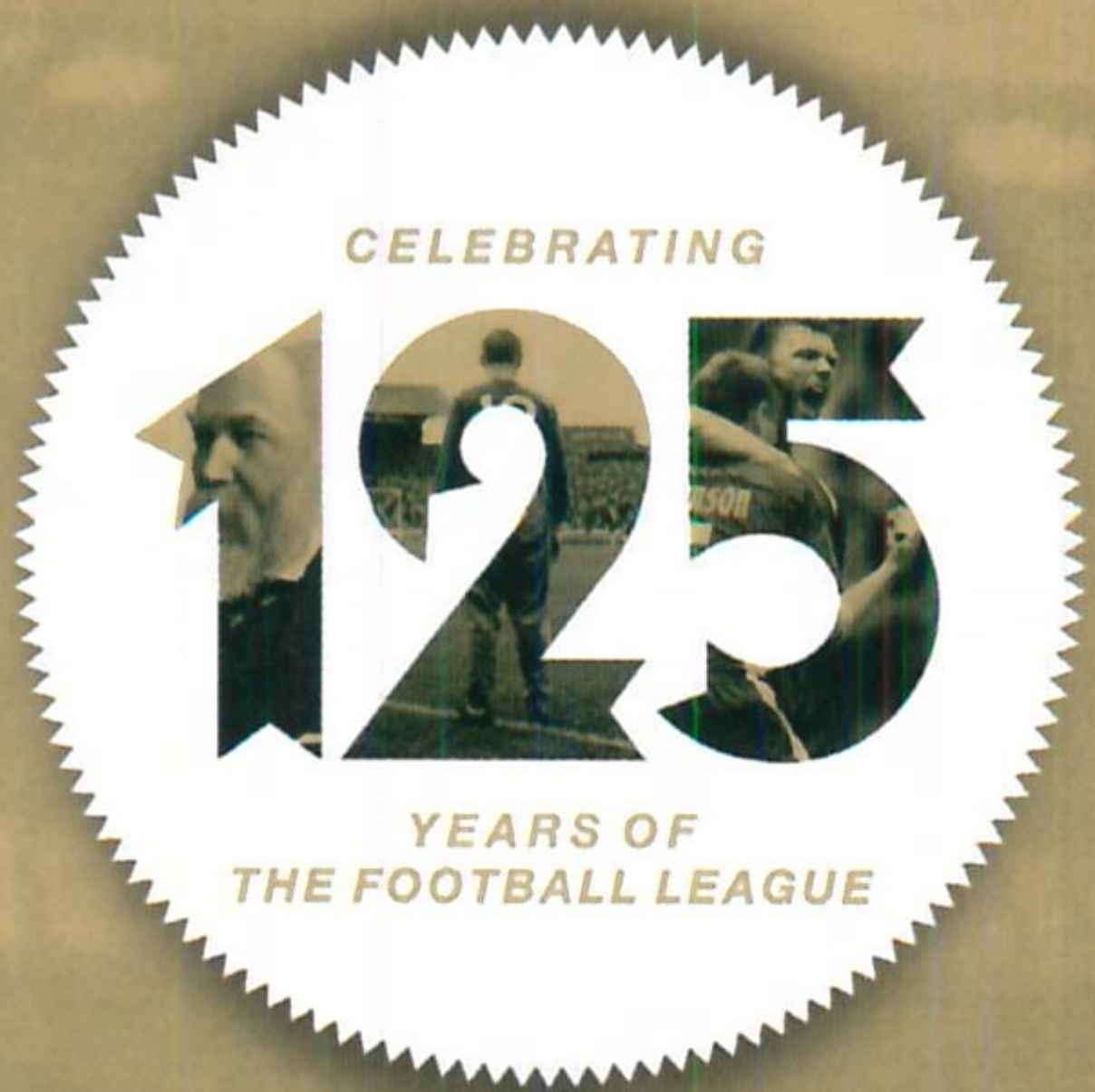
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fantastic birthday"**





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MATCHDAY EXPERIENCES

One of our Academy Partner Clubs Barton Rovers were invited to take part in a special pitch side presentation at the Reading FC v Nottingham Forest FC fixture.

They came to celebrate the recent award of FA Charter Standard Community Club status – a fantastic accolade and the highest possible accreditation a grassroots club can receive.

This demonstrates the club has a high-quality, multi-team set-up with a clear development pathway and excellent social, training and playing opportunities for all. It shows Barton Rovers has the necessary infrastructure to provide a great environment for football development.



They were joined by MP for Reading West, Alok Sharma, who presented a commemorative plaque to John White and Sandy Kapila from Barton Rovers.

ROYALS IN INDIA

Two coaches from Reading FC will head off to India this month, as the club continues to provide support to one of the up and coming nations of world football.

The Royals coaches will lend their expertise for an initial period of six months in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, and it is expected that coaches could remain in the region for a further two years.

Arunachal Pradesh is one of the seven states making up the Northeast region and borders the Indian states of Assam and Nagaland and is rated by Lonely Planet as one of the World's top ten holiday destinations.

The Royals have also agreed to provide football expertise in a new Indian Super League franchise bid.

JOE GREEN

Reading Football Club was sad to hear of the passing of lifelong fan Joe Green. The popular owner of Tadley Pet Supplies will be missed by his wife, four sons, nine grandchildren and extended family and friends. The Club extends



its sincere condolences to members of Joe's family. Joe is pictured here, celebrating the Royals' promotion to the Premier League in 2012.

TODAY'S TEAMS

Two local sides are on the pitch today. Westwood Wanderers (hooped shirts) are our pre-match guard of honour, while Eldon Celtic (green & black) are taking half time penalties.



THE RIFLES

Fancy winning the new Rifles CD? We've got copies to give away – simply email editor@readingfc.co.uk with Rifles in the subject line! The band's fourth album reunites their original line-up and is not to be missed!





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URRzzzzz



41

YOUNG

ROYALS



**READING VS
BOLTON WANDERERS**

A fanzine for proud members of the
Royals' official junior supporters club

MASCOTS

Jack
Gale



Finn
McCann



Charlie
Sweeney



Here is Kingsley before the Nottingham Forest game - with captain
Danny Guthrie and all six of our mascots!

For information on
matchday mascots,
please contact
Gill Jacob on 0118 968
1460

I ♥
ROYALS



#BUILDEVOLVESUCCEED



DRENTHE

NO.10

FANTASTIC YOUNG ROYALS COMPETITION: WIN A PLAYER VISIT TO YOUR SCHOOL!

Following the success of our 'Win a Player Visit' competition last season we are delighted to announce another very lucky Young Royal could win the chance to welcome a member of the Royals first team to their school!

Last year, Hayden Price was selected as our lucky winner and he welcomed star 'keeper Alex McCarthy to his class at New Scotland Hill Primary School in Sandhurst. McCarthy spent time chatting to the youngsters before posing for photos and signing lots of autographs!

To enter this awesome competition simply share why you would like to invite a Royals star to meet you and your school pals. Perhaps tell us why you are such a big fan and what it would mean to you to have the chance to introduce a player to your classmates!

The player visit will include a question and answer session with the winner and their classmates invited to put their questions to the Royals star before he sign autographs and poses for photos!

We had an extremely positive response for the last competition so good luck to all entrants!

Please email your entry to youngroyals@readingfc.co.uk or post to Young Royals Competition, Reading Football Club, Madejski Stadium, Junction 11 M4, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0FL.

Please ensure your school is able to accommodate a player visit and media presence before entering the competition. Closing date for entries is 12pm on Friday 7th February 2014. Terms and conditions apply and are available on request.

URRzzzz

THE READING CHRONICLE PRIZE TIME

Fancy winning a Royals away shirt signed by Royals defender Wayne Bridge? Well in this very special competition, just for Young Royals you could!

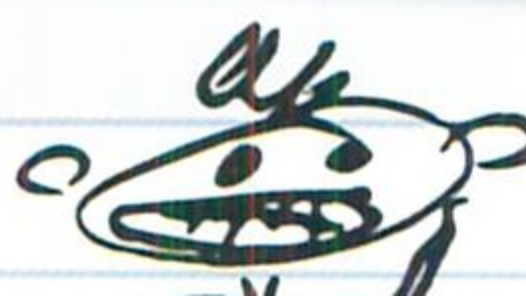
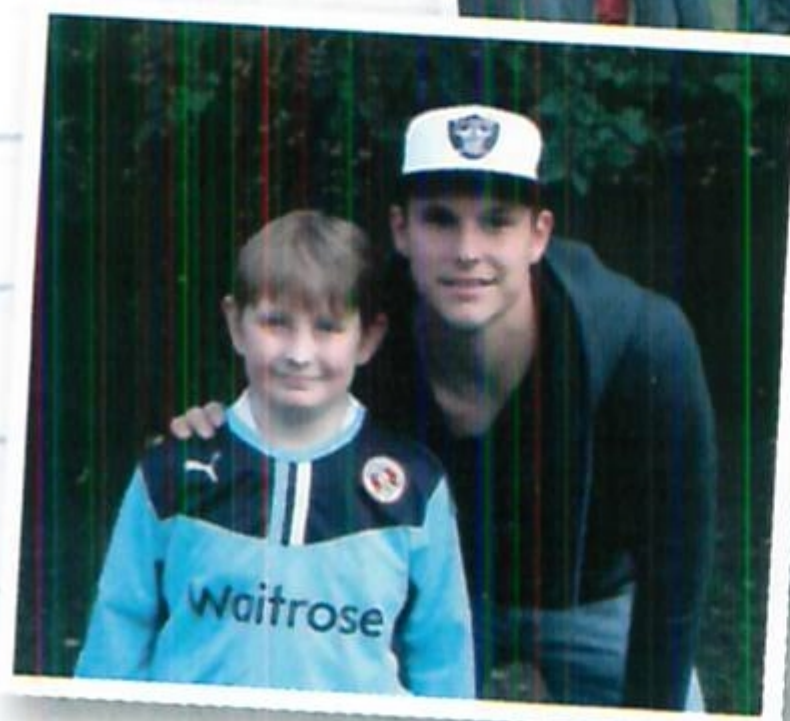
All you have to do is answer the following question correctly:

- Brighton and Hove Albion
- Arsenal
- Tottenham Hotspur

Simply send your answer with your full name and contact details to youngroyals@readingfc.co.uk with Wayne Bridge in the subject header. Or send your entry to Young Royals Competition, Marketing Department, Reading Football Club, Madejski Stadium, Junction 11, M4, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0FL.

Closing date Friday 7th February 12pm. Terms and conditions apply.

Don't forget there will be an exclusive competition just for Young Royals in each matchday programme for the chance to win Royals goodies!



YOUNG ROYALS

CLASS OF 2013-14



FOREIGN LANGUAGES

This season, 'The Royal' brings you handy phrases to help you understand the beautiful game on the continent...



Spēlē starp
līnām!



Play between
the lines!

HISTORY

From which club did Reading sign Matt Mills?

- A) Doncaster
- B) Man City
- C) Southampton



GEOGRAPHY

Can you put a cross in the right place on this map to show where in the UK you would find this picture?

MATHEMATICS

Using our players' squad numbers, can you complete this issue's Royals equation?



%



=

?



PLAYGROUND GOSSIP

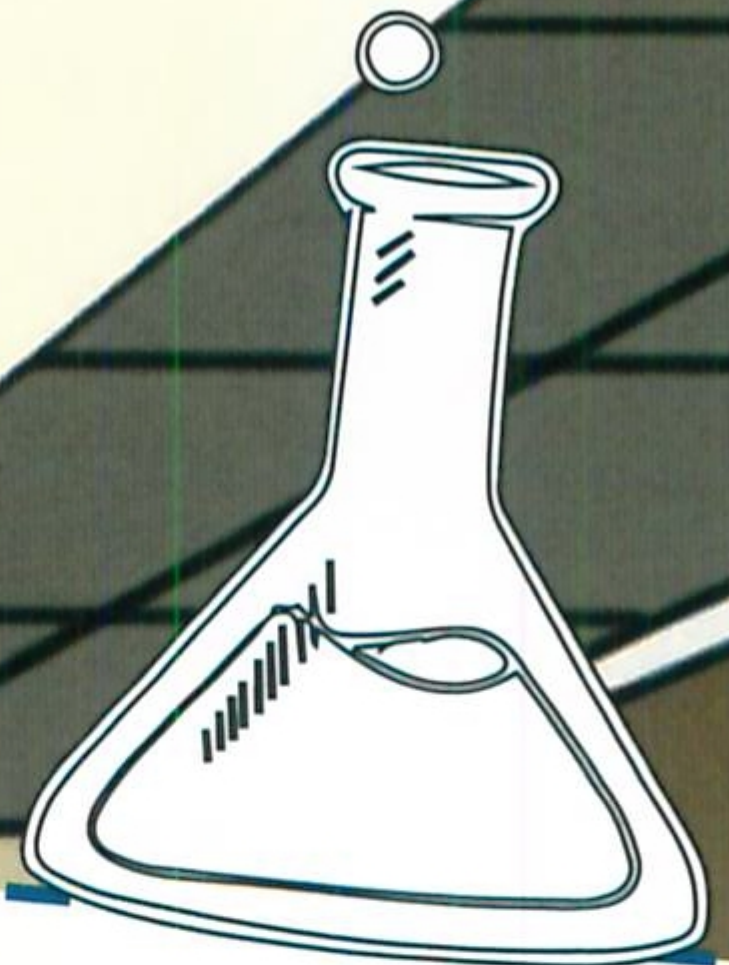
Listen to the rumours and try to work out which of these statements is true?



I have started more League games in my career than Chris.



I have started more League games in my career than Kaspars.



BIOLOGY



Can you identify which player this part of the body belongs to?



TAKING REGISTER!

"Kingsley Royal.... KINGSLEY ROYAL!"
No answer. Kingsley has skipped class and the teacher has marked a cross against his name in the register. But can you find him playing truant on another page in this issue of 'The Royal'...

THE ROYAL WHITEBOARD

Happy birthday Karen Paxford.
Love from Marcus, George, Jessica, Henry, Charlotte, William, Mum and Dad xxx

Lili dhe Titi, rruge te mbare, Elona, ZAK, Bledi dhe Ebba x

HAPPY 65th Birthday David Garratt.
Life Long Loyal Royal!
Love from Andrew, Malcolm, Bill, Sam and Maisey
Best wishes and G'ARN URRzzz

Get well soon Mark from your squash injury!

Happy Retirement to Papa Jevs from all the family

MARK YOUR OWN ANSWERS: MATHEMATICS: $44 \div 11 = 4$, Jem Karacan.
GEOGRAPHY: Middlesbrough. HISTORY: A. BIOLOGY: Stephen Kelly.
PLAYGROUND GOSSIP: Kaspars Gorkss is telling the truth, he has started 247 League games to Chris Baird's 235.





FOLLOW OUR FUTURE
MICHAEL HECTOR



#MYTOWNMYCLUB

Date: Saturday 11th January • Venue: Vicarage Road • Referee: Keith Stroud • Attendance: 15,725



WATFORD

0-1

READING
(GORKSS 5)



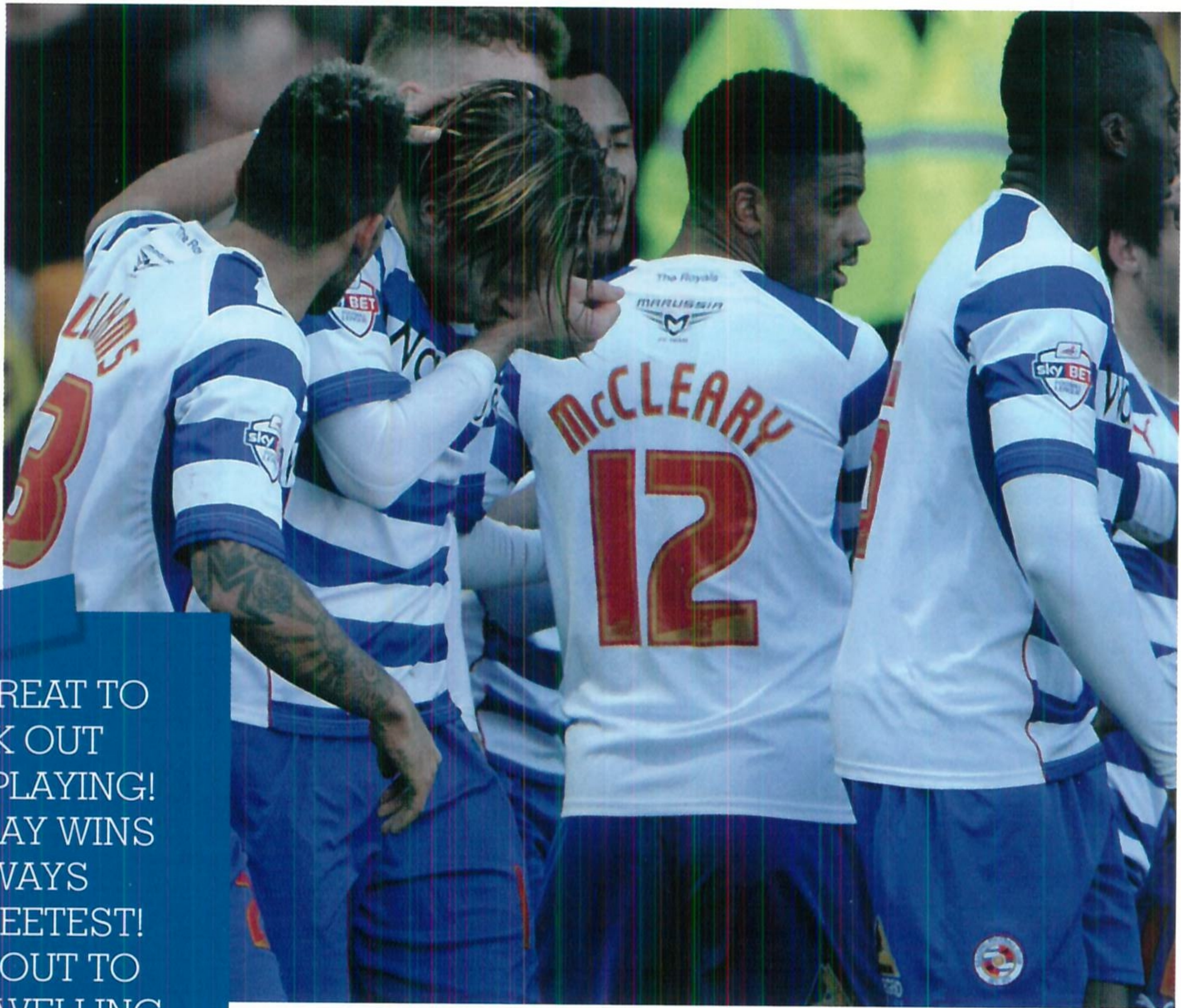
57%

43%

POSSESSION

LINE-UP (3-5-2): Almunia, Doyley (Faraoni 78), Ekstrand, Angella, Pudil, Bellerin (Forestieri 55), Merkel, Murray (Battocchio 73), McGugan, Deeney, Fabbrini.
SUBS NOT USED: Woods, Hall, Faraoni, Iriney.

LINE UP (4-4-2): McCarthy, Gunter, Obita (Cummings 85), Gorkss, Pearce, Akpan (Blackman 82), Williams, McCleary (Taylor 87), McAnuff, Le Fondre, Pogrebnyak.
SUBS NOT USED: Federici, Kelly, Hector, Drenthe.



“GREAT TO BE BACK OUT THERE PLAYING! AWAY DAY WINS ARE ALWAYS THE SWEETEST! SHOUT OUT TO THE TRAVELLING FANS, THEY WERE QUALITY! #URZZZZ #ROYALS”
@HOPEAKPAN

A very good away performance produced three points on Reading’s return to League action at Vicarage Road. Manager Nigel Adkins had spoken before the game about the importance of getting a win under our belts, and his team

started perfectly as Kaspars Gorkss headed in Jordan Obita’s fifth minute corner.
The goal gave Reading a spring in their step, backed by more than 1,600 travelling supporters, and for the rest of the first half we continued to play with vim and vigour. Jobi

MATCH SHOW REEL

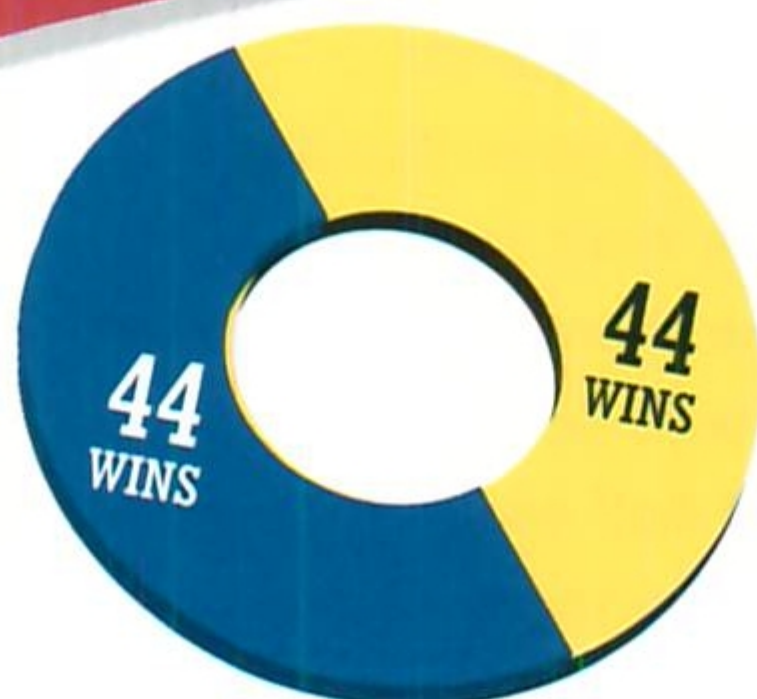


McAnuff was clearly in the mood to try and score against his former club, and he was unlucky to see an effort go not too far wide after an incisive run into the box.

Into the second half and Alex McCarthy was becoming more of a participant in the game, but he was imperious between the sticks and stylishly kept the Hornets at bay. He was well assisted by Jordan Obita, starting his first game at left back, who put in a performance of real quality.

Down the other end of the pitch Pavel Pogrebnyak was tireless, and when Alexander Merkel was shown a straight red for a high tackle on Nick Blackman, we were able to see out the final minutes and take a well-earned win.

HEAD2HEAD



"THE LADS WERE TOP DRAWER AND I THOUGHT THE VICTORY REALLY SHOWED THE TOGETHERNESS OF THE GROUP, AND THE SUPPORTERS."

NIGEL ADKINS



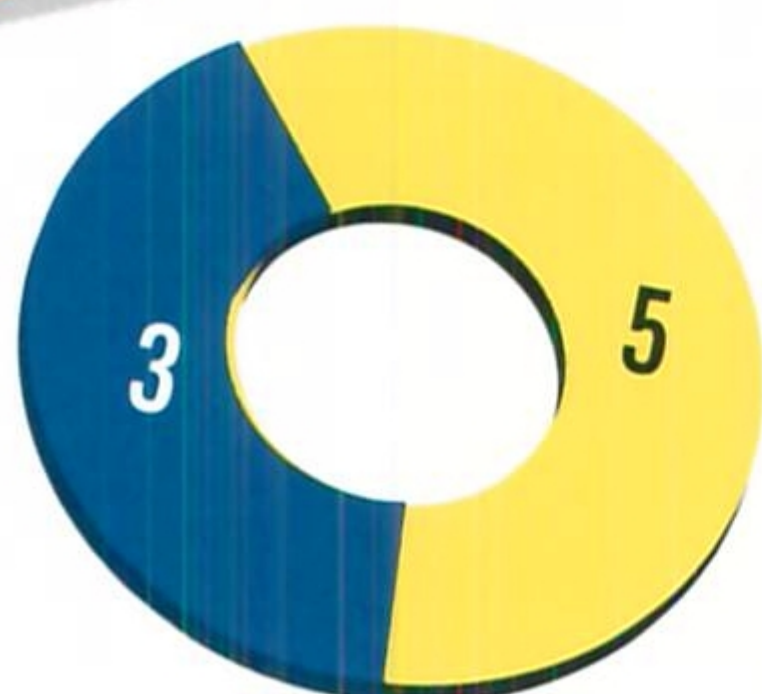


STAT

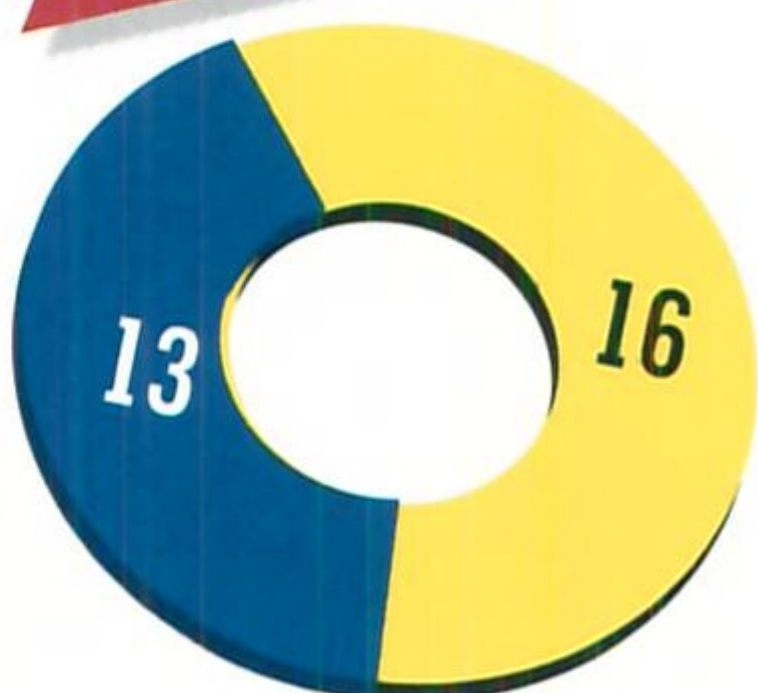
YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO 1977 FOR THE LAST TIME WATFORD DID THE DOUBLE OVER READING IN THE LEAGUE.

FACT

CORNERS



FOULS



KEY MOMENT

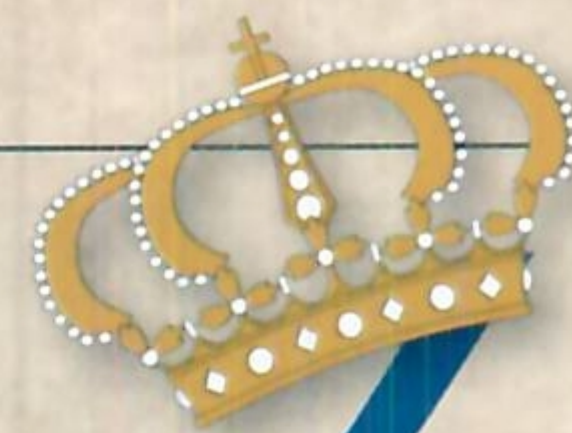
85 mins

Alexander Merkel – who had already been booked – is shown a straight red card for a high tackle.

90 mins



0 mins



BORN *Royal*

ALAN SEDUNARY HELPS US CELEBRATE A SIGNIFICANT BIRTH AROUND THIS DAY IN HISTORY - AND TAKES A LOOK AT WHY ELSE THE 18TH JANUARY GOES DOWN IN READING FOOTBALL CLUB FOLKLORE...

18/01/1922 | RAY KEMP

Having featured some Reading greats on this page already this season, by way of a change today's 'birthday boy', had the briefest of Reading careers. Born in Bristol on 18 January 1922, Ray Kemp was 17 when the Second World War began and 23 when peace was returned. As a result his chance of a professional career was virtually over when he joined Hendon in May 1946. Ray quickly established himself as Hendon's first choice goalkeeper and over the next three seasons he made 103 first team appearances for the amateur club. In addition, Ray won a string of representative honours. In the summer of 1949 he moved to Grays Athletic and within six months his chance of League football arrived. Christmas 1949 saw Reading suffer injuries to both our first team keepers, George Marks and John McBride, so the club were grateful when Grays offered us the loan of Ray for the festive period. Just short of his 28th birthday, Ray finally made his League debut on Boxing Day 1949 at Bournemouth but it was not to be

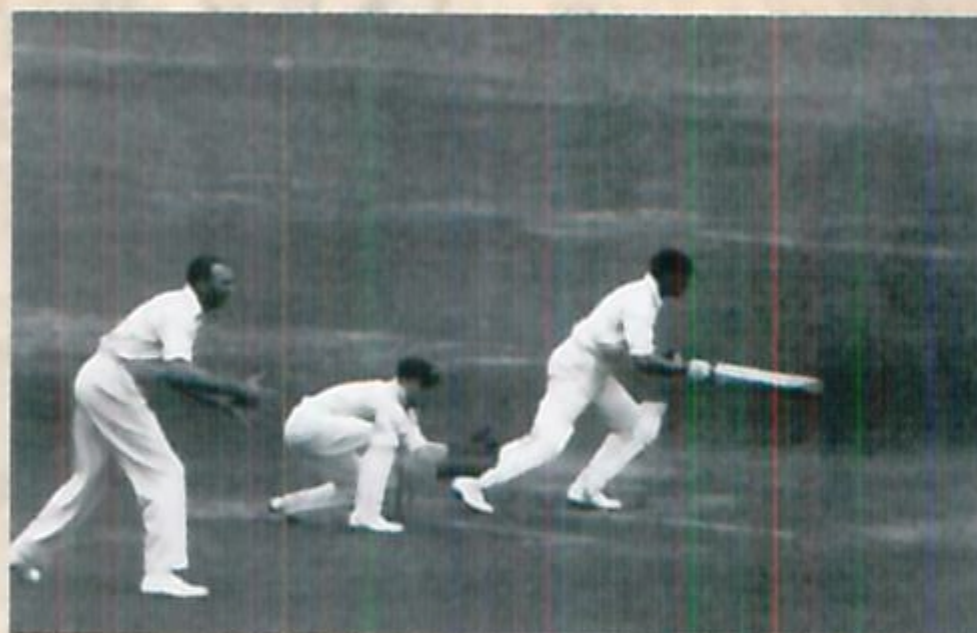


a fairy tale start for the slightly-built goalie. Lacking in inches, Ray was beaten by two long-range efforts, one from future Reading favourite Jack Lewis, that sailed over his head. Reading and Ray got their revenge the following day in the return fixture when he 'very ably filled the breach' as Reading claimed the points. Four days later Ray was again on the winning side as he helped Reading to a close victory over Exeter but, with McBride fit again, his six-day Reading career was over and he returned to Grays. Ray continued to

play top-class amateur football and played in more representative games so that he was regarded as the most-honoured amateur keeper never to have been capped by England. At the end of the 1950s Ray received one further honour when his pen-picture was included in the legendary four-volume 'Association Football' book, recording the history of all aspects of the game. Sadly, Ray passed away in 1989 and, although few Reading fans will remember him, for a few days 64 years ago he came to Reading's rescue.

Elm Park All-Sports

We think of the Mad Stad as a multi-purpose stadium with it alternating between football and rugby union but it is nothing compared to Elm Park at the time Ray Kemp was born. On 24 January 1922, just six days after Ray was born, Elm Park staged its first rugby union game when Berkshire Wanderers played Richmond who, by coincidence, were the first rugby tenants of the Mad Stad. During that summer the football club staged its annual fete at our old ground; an event that featured pigeon racing and whippet racing, boxing and even parachute jumping. But the strangest sport to take place at Elm Park was staged in March 1922 and saw the Thames Valley Police play the Licenced Victualers at pushball. As the name implies, pushball involves two teams trying to push a giant ball, and their opponents, over the finishing line – a sort of tug of war in reverse. Cricket was staged at Elm Park in the summer of 1921 but, with Test heroes currently in short supply, England cricket fans might like to recall George Macaulay who, in January 1922 took a wicket with his first ball in test cricket and then hit the winning run in the same game as England won in South Africa. Back at Elm Park, in January 1922 the directors decided to censure (their word) the programme content after an 'undesirable expression of opinion' appeared in a recent edition – bet it was that David Downs!

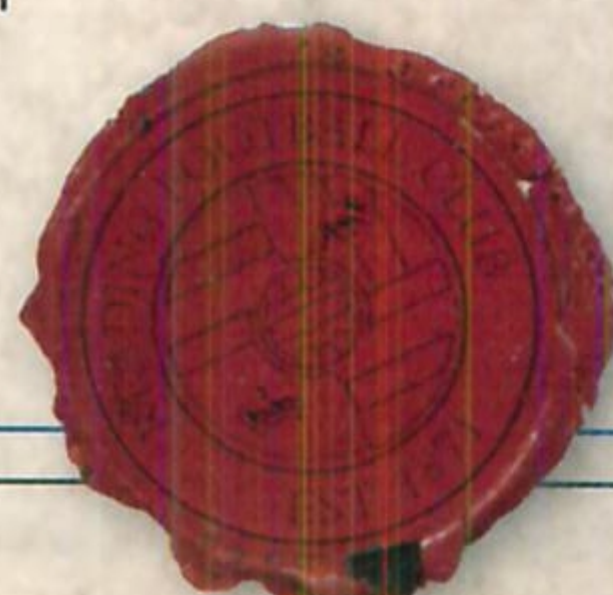


Match Of Today - 18th January 1958

After two goalless away games Reading returned to Elm Park on 18 January 1958 in search of their first League goal of the New Year. Visitors Northampton had recently knocked Arsenal out of the FA Cup but Reading had their shooting boots on and two quick goals from centre forward Tommy Dixon gave Reading a seemingly comfortable lead. The visitors had other ideas and they scored their own pair of goals in quick succession just before half time to send us in level at the break. The opening 15 minutes of the second half also belonged to Northampton but it was Reading who regained the lead, Dixon completing his hat-trick with a stunning drive. Almost immediately, Dougie Webb rounded off a fine personal display to net our fourth with a brilliant header and then Dixon netted his fourth and Reading's fifth to give us a slightly flattering 5-2 win that moved us into third place in the Third Division South. That win also saw us complete a double over Northampton as, on the same day, our reserves had won 4-2 at the County Ground.



Reading: David Jones; Eddie McLaren, Ray Reeves; Sylvan Anderton, Bill Davies, Maurice Evans; Peter Harrison, Dougie Webb, Tommy Dixon, Johnny Walker, Jimmy Wheeler



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Celebrating their birthdays today are QPR keeper Robert Green, who is 34 and former England striker Peter Beardsley, who was born on 22 January 1961. 196 years ago today the original 'Biscuitman' was born! George Palmer moved to Reading and formed a partnership with Joseph Huntley to form the biggest biscuit manufacturers in the world and the town's biggest employer for over 100 years as well as giving the football club its first nickname. An even vaguer RFC connection involves Kula Shaker lead singer, Crispian Mills, who is 41 today. Crispian is married to Joanne Branfoot, daughter of former Royals' boss Ian, and she was allegedly responsible for the design of the three-stripe club badge used between 1987 and 1996. And finally – happy birthday to the Golden Goal, or at least as far as Reading are concerned. A short-lived experiment to decide cup games that were level after 90 minutes, Reading's one and only Golden Goal was scored 14 years ago this evening when Keith Scott netted to give us a 2-1 win at Barnet in the Auto Windscreens Shield.



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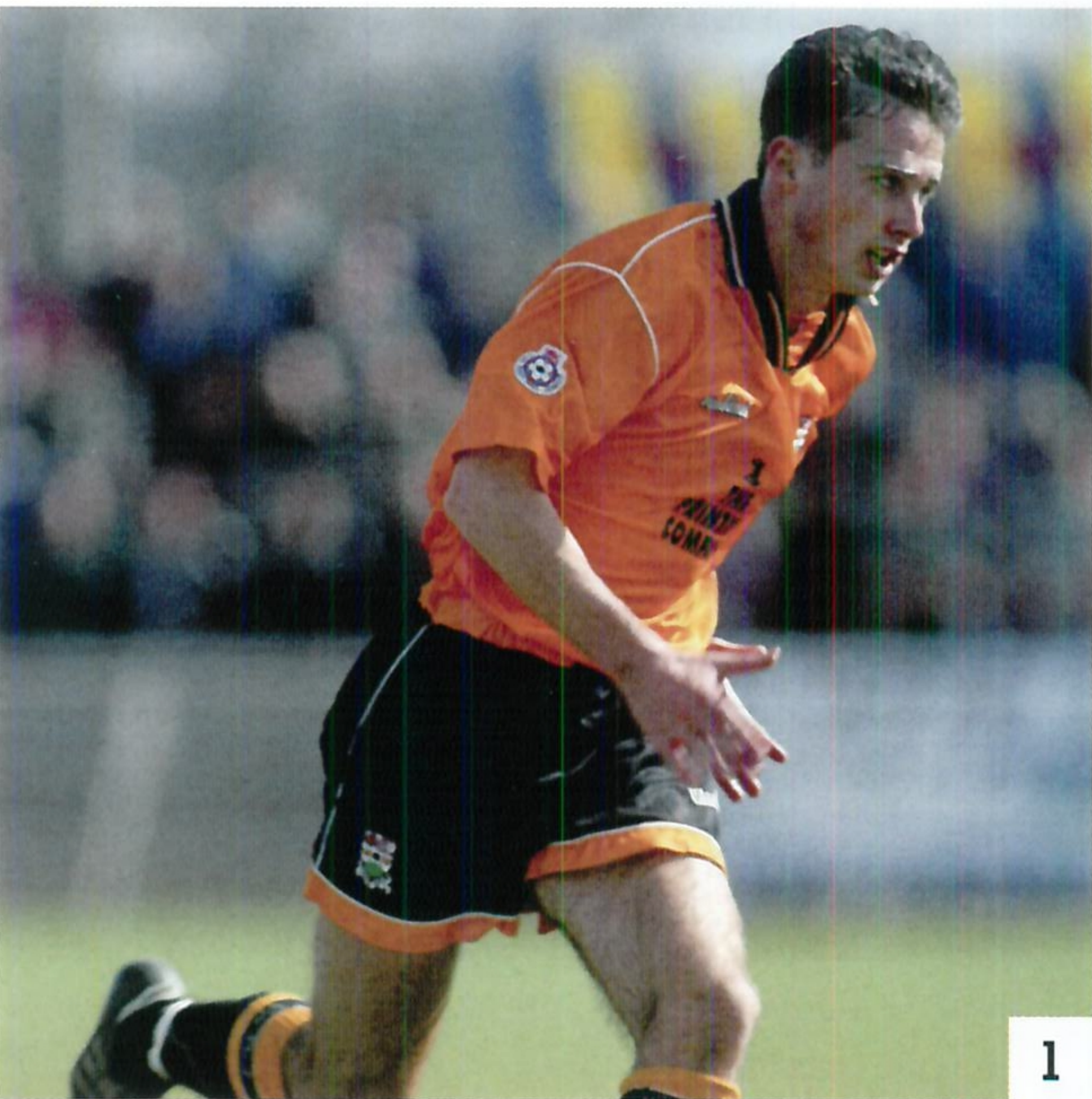


BOLTON WANDERERS

The Trotters are aiming to make 2014 their year. It's hard to believe that 15 months in charge makes Dougie Freedman the 33rd longest-serving boss in England; such is the nature of the managerial merry-go-round. This is the Scotsman's first full season at the helm, and against a background of reported debts of £163million, the former Crystal Palace manager sees his team 18th in the table. But when Bolton get that ever-elusive ability to turn draws into wins, they will shoot up the League. As an example, play-off contenders Blackburn have only lost one fewer game than their north west rivals but sit ten places higher in the Sky Bet Championship table. And you only need to look at the quality of the spine of Bolton's squad - Bogdan, Mills, Spearing, Ngog et al - to know that the Trotters are sure to be back at the top end of the table soon enough. It's been a poignant week for the Trotters with the three-year anniversary of the passing of the legendary Nat Lofthouse, and they'll be aiming to perform well in his name this afternoon.







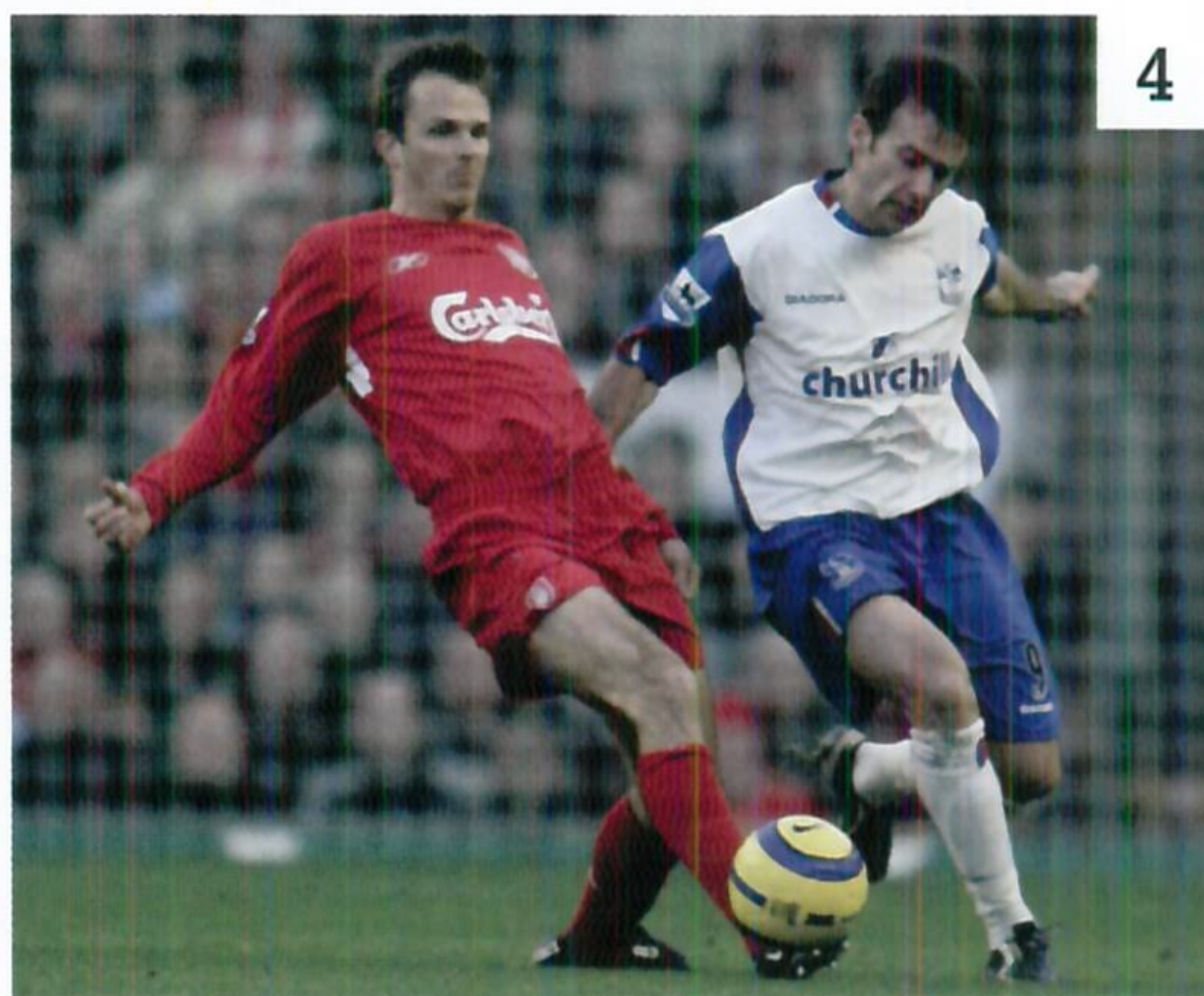
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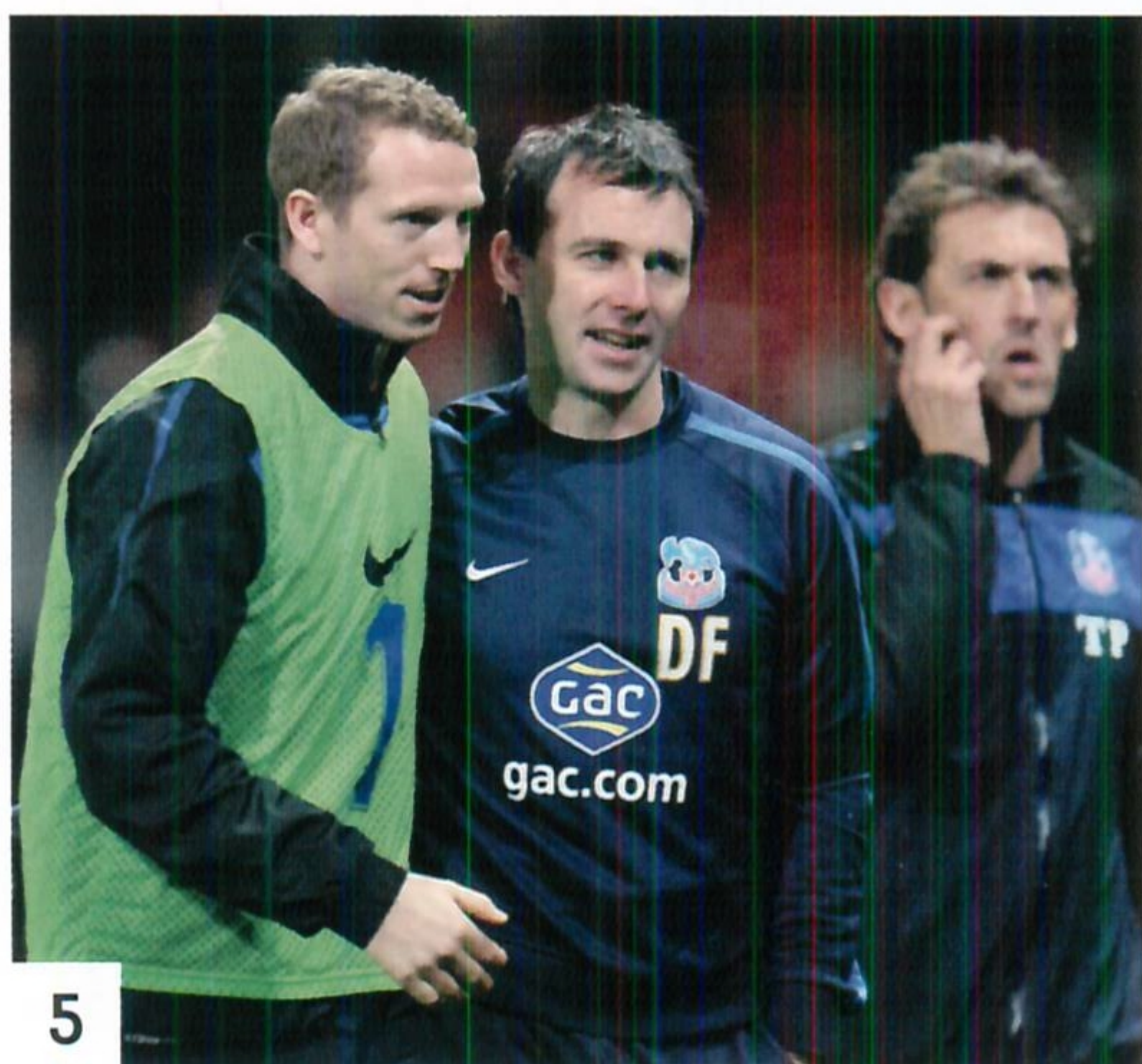
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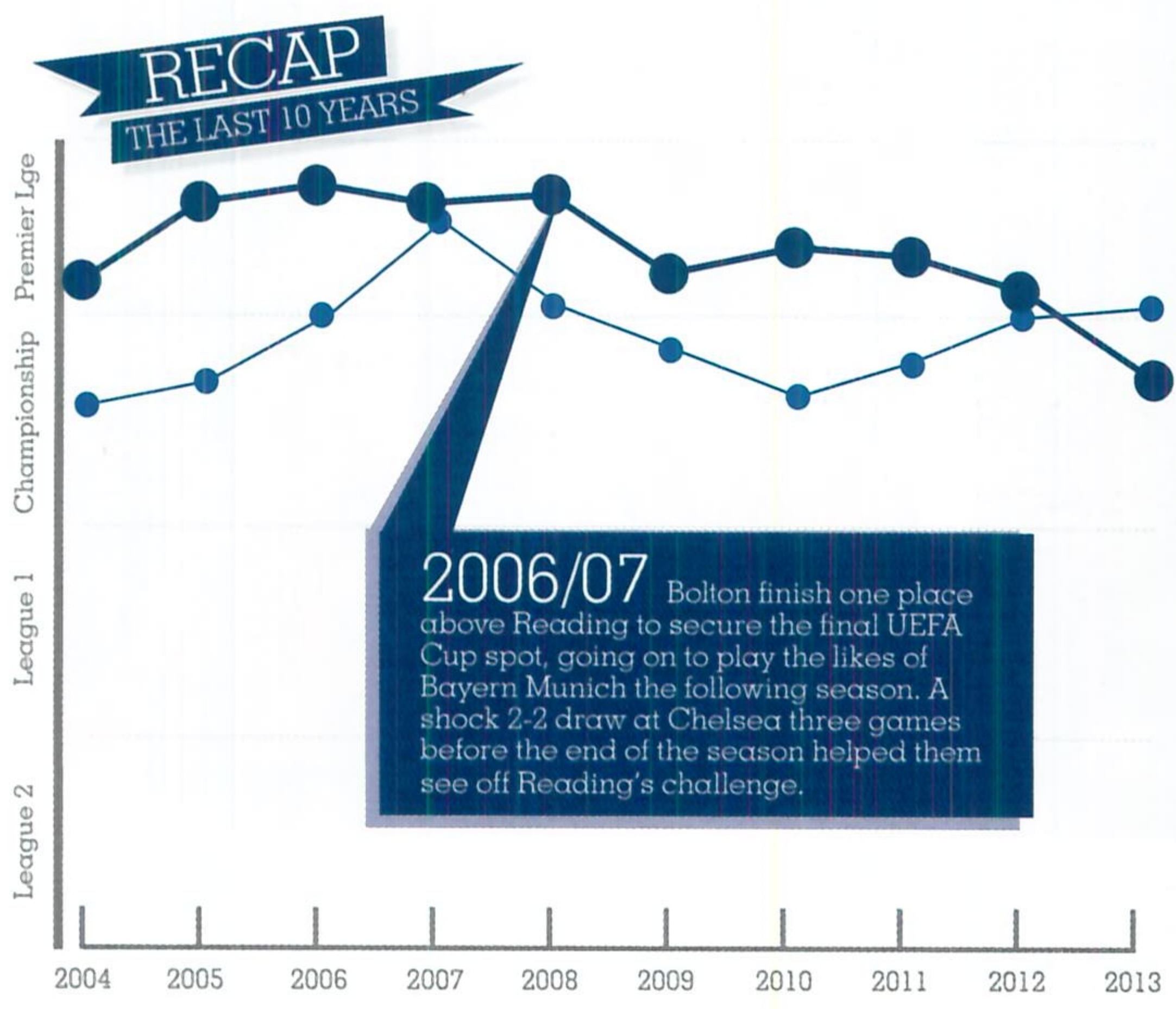
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1) Early days at Barnet 2) On under 21 duty for Scotland in San Marino 3) Treatment while a Wolves player 4) In action at Anfield
5) Memorable win at Old Trafford 6) Appointed at Bolton

STEERING THE SHIP

Aged just 39, Dougie Freedman has a long managerial career ahead of him. The Glaswegian started his playing days at QPR, but moved to Barnet to get regular football, where his goalscoring exploits caught the eye of Crystal Palace for £800,000. After two productive years at Selhurst Park he moved to Wolves for a season, then spent two seasons at Nottingham Forest, continuing his very creditable goalscoring record of roughly a goal every three games. He then returned to his spiritual home at Palace, spending eight more excellent years in south London. In his comeback year he scored the goal that prevented the club's relegation to the third tier, and who knows where the club would be now had he not popped up with such a vital strike. He soon surpassed 100 goals for the Eagles, and after a loan at Leeds he finished his career at Southend. But the lure of Palace was too strong, as he was soon back on their coaching staff before becoming first team boss in 2011. He knocked Manchester United out of the League Cup over two legs, and began the club's promotion charge last season. In October 2012 the lure of recently-relegated Bolton proved too much to turn down, and after a late play-off charge last season he is aiming for more success this time around.

MANAGERIAL RECORD...						
TEAM	FROM	TO	GAMES	WON	DRAWN	LOST
Bolton	23 Oct, 2012	Present	66	23	24	19
C Palace	01 Jan, 2011	24 Oct, 2012	92	32	28	32

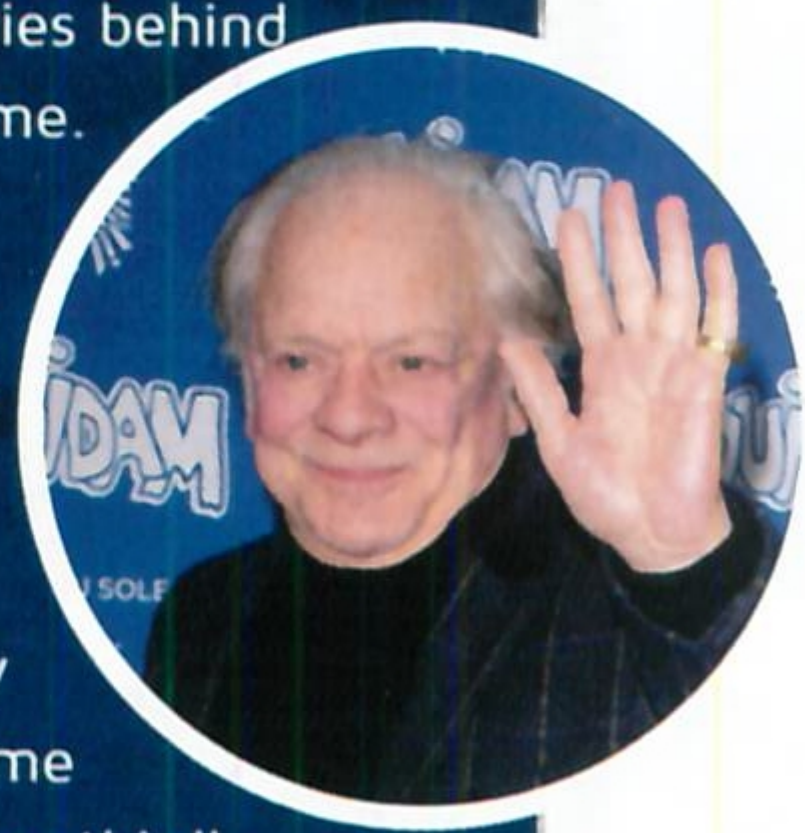


SECONDS 60

GUIDE TO... BOLTON

WHAT'S A TROTTER?

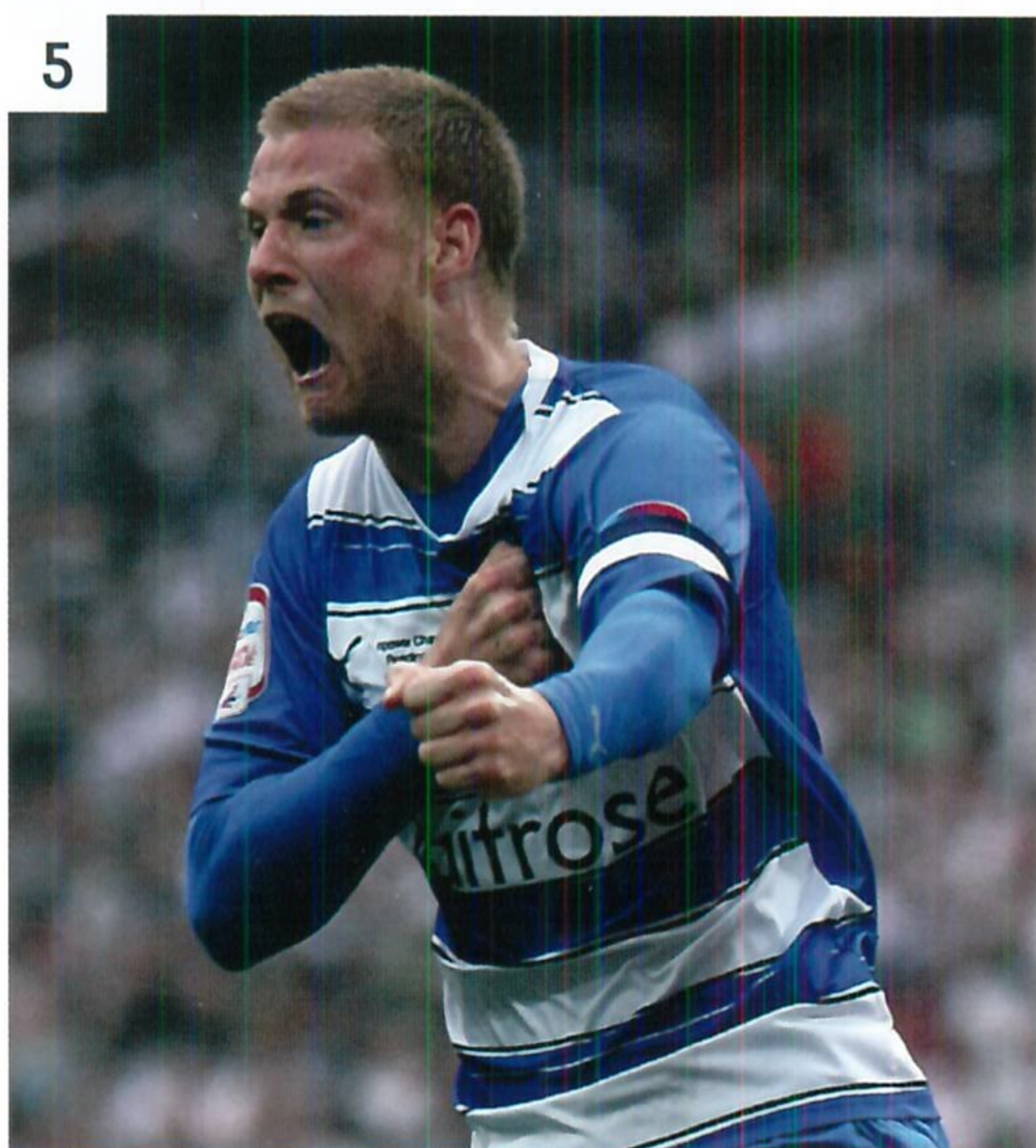
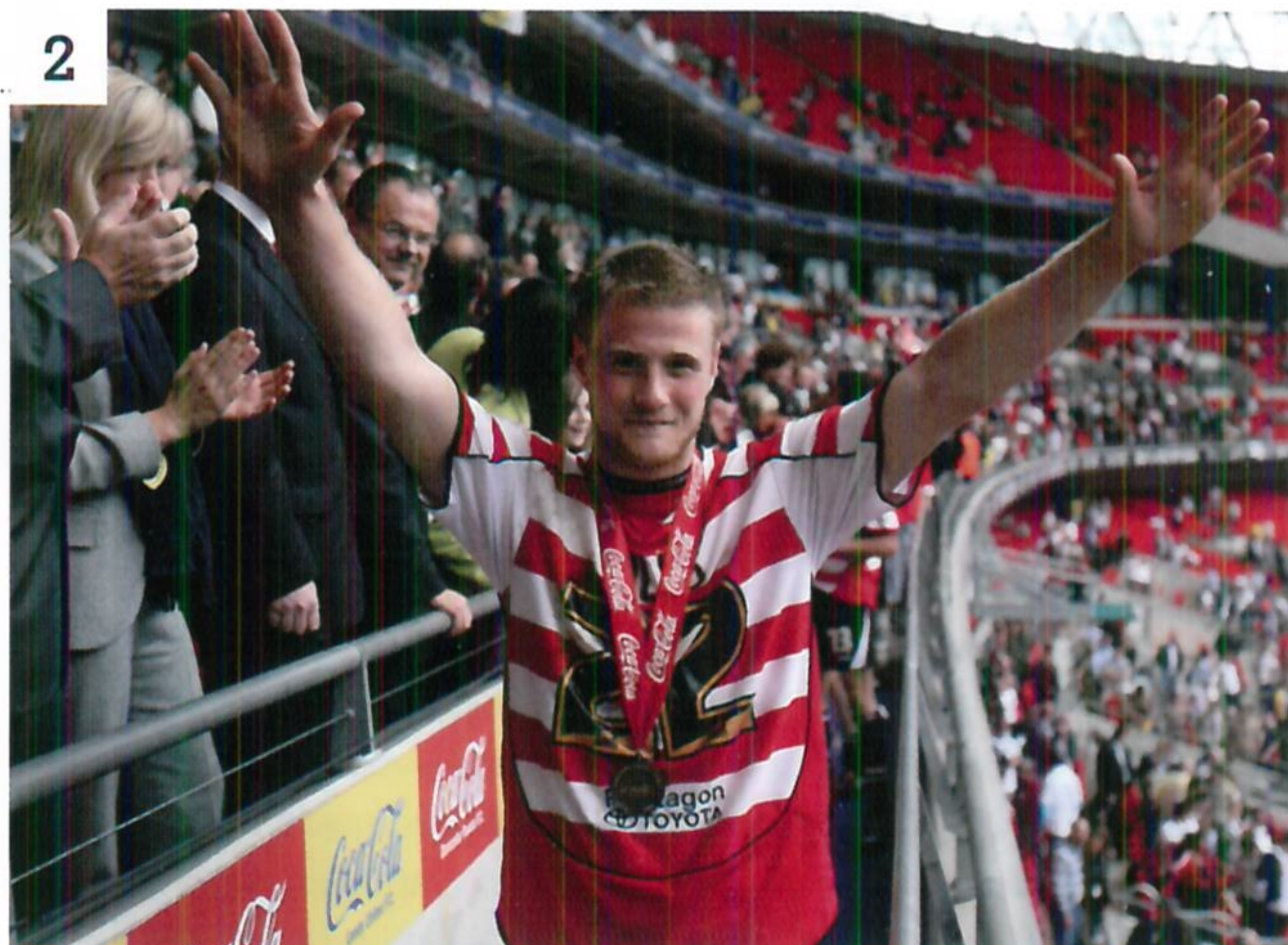
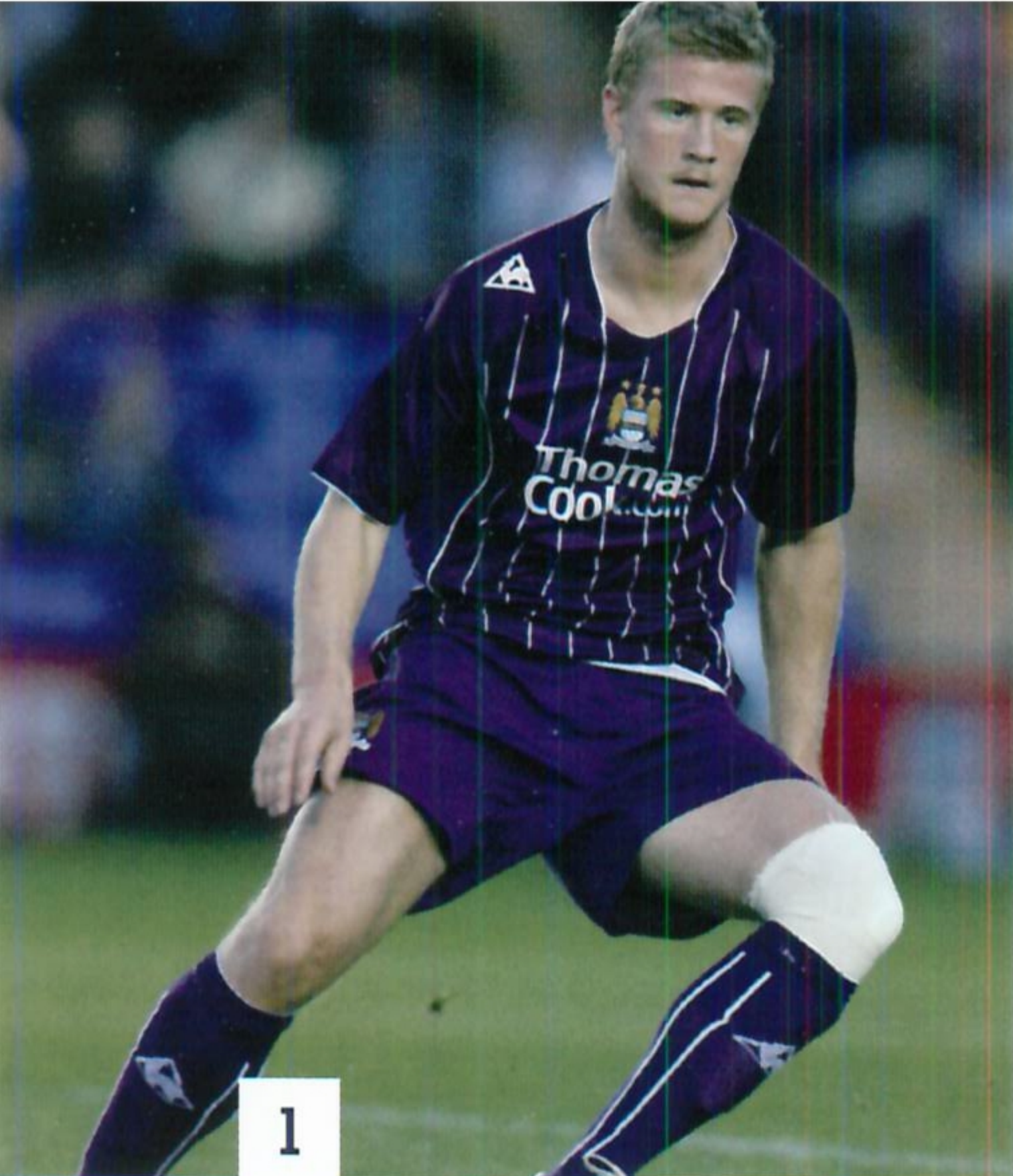
There's lots of theories behind Bolton's Trotters name. The [semi] reliable source of Wikipedia gives a few options: firstly it could be a simple variation of Wanderers, secondly it may be an old name for a practical joker or thirdly one of their earliest grounds was next to a pig farm. Sadly there is no evidence to back up the theory that the creator of Only Fools And Horses was a Bolton fan and named Del Boy in their honour.



FOUR FA CUPS

The Wanderers have a wonderful FA Cup history – four wins in 1923, 1926, 1929 and 1958, as well as three runner-up medals and a further four semi-finals. Three FA Cups in seven years is a quite unprecedented achievement, and their first win in 1923 was the first ever football game to be played at Wembley, famously known as the White Horse Final. Their 1953 final appearance in the Matthews final will forever be legend, and just three years ago they nearly made it back to the final, only to lose to Stoke 5-0 in the 2011 semis.





1) Coming through the ranks at Man City 2) Winning promotion at Wembley with Doncaster 3) Joining the Royals 4) The winner at Everton 5) Scoring at Wembley for the Royals 6) Playing for Leicester

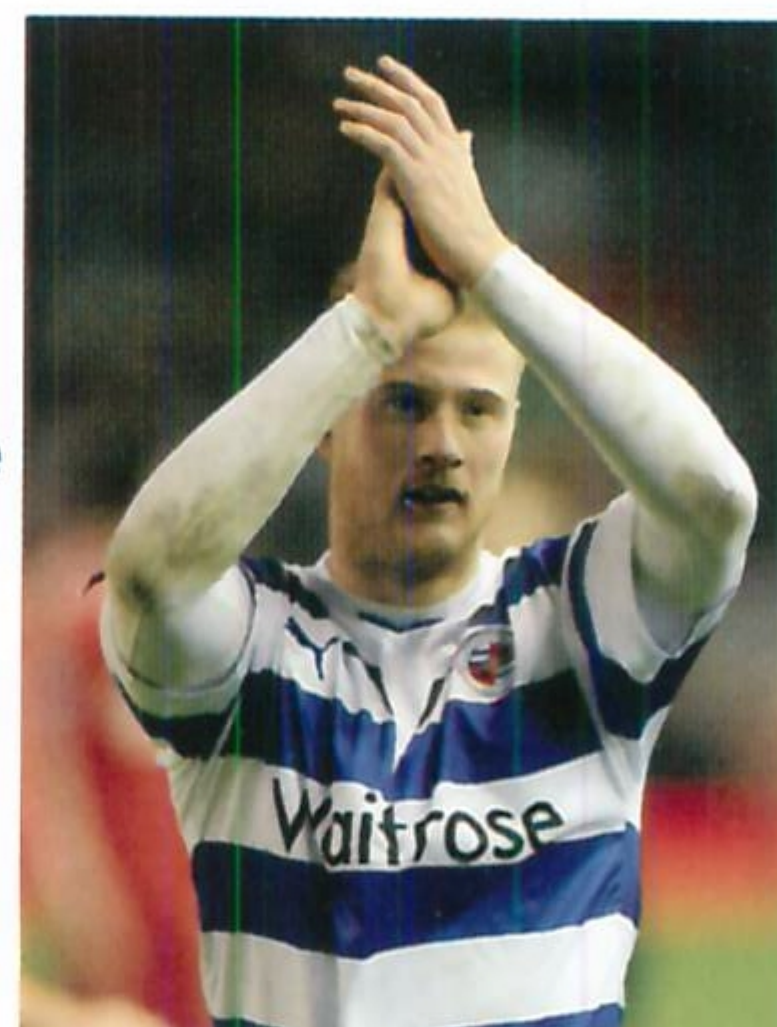


IN PROFILE MATT MILLS

BOLTON WANDERERS

59

In two seasons as a Royal, Matt Mills certainly squeezed in much to remember. Having started out at Southampton, he moved to Man City in 2006 before joining Doncaster on a permanent basis. He helped take Rovers to the Championship with an historic play-off win over Leeds at Wembley, and soon earned a prestigious move to Madejski Stadium. Early on in his time in Berkshire he had to fight an unexpected battle at the bottom end of the table, but by the end of his first season we were on an FA Cup run to the quarter finals and the cusp of the play-offs under Brian McDermott. In his next season he scored at Everton to knock out the Toffees in the FA Cup on another great run, and he then showed toughness to overcome an on-pitch incident against QPR to captain the side to a Wembley play-off final. His celebrations after bringing it back to 3-2 show just what the prospect of promotion meant, and had we turned that game around he would have skippered us into the Premier League. But such is football, and that summer Mills joined Championship rivals Leicester, before settling at Bolton under Dougie Freedman and again showing why he has been coveted by a number of managers throughout his career.



SPOTLIGHT ON JAY SPEARING



Bolton's player of the year last season, the Merseysider made a permanent switch to the Reebok Stadium in the summer after a hugely successful loan spell. Having come through the ranks at Liverpool, he made his name at Anfield with a superb sub appearance against Real Madrid in the Champions League, and made 30 appearances for the Reds, including plenty of European games, as well as Merseyside derbies et al. In addition he picked up a Carling Cup winners' medal, having been on the bench at Wembley. But given the world class players in front of him, he understandably stepped away from his homeland to get game time. Having been on loan at Leicester previously, Spearing has shone under Dougie Freedman at Bolton and is continuing to make the most of his

MEET YOUR

HAYDEN WHITE

Young full back who signed from Sheffield Wednesday this summer, agreeing a three-year contract at the Reebok. The 18-year-old is yet to make his senior debut.



HAYDEN WHITE

Tennessee-born historian in the tradition of literary criticism, perhaps most famous for his work *Metahistory: The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Europe* (1973). White studied history under William J. Bossenbrook at Wayne State, and he is previously professor of comparative literature at Stanford.



NAMESAKE



1



3



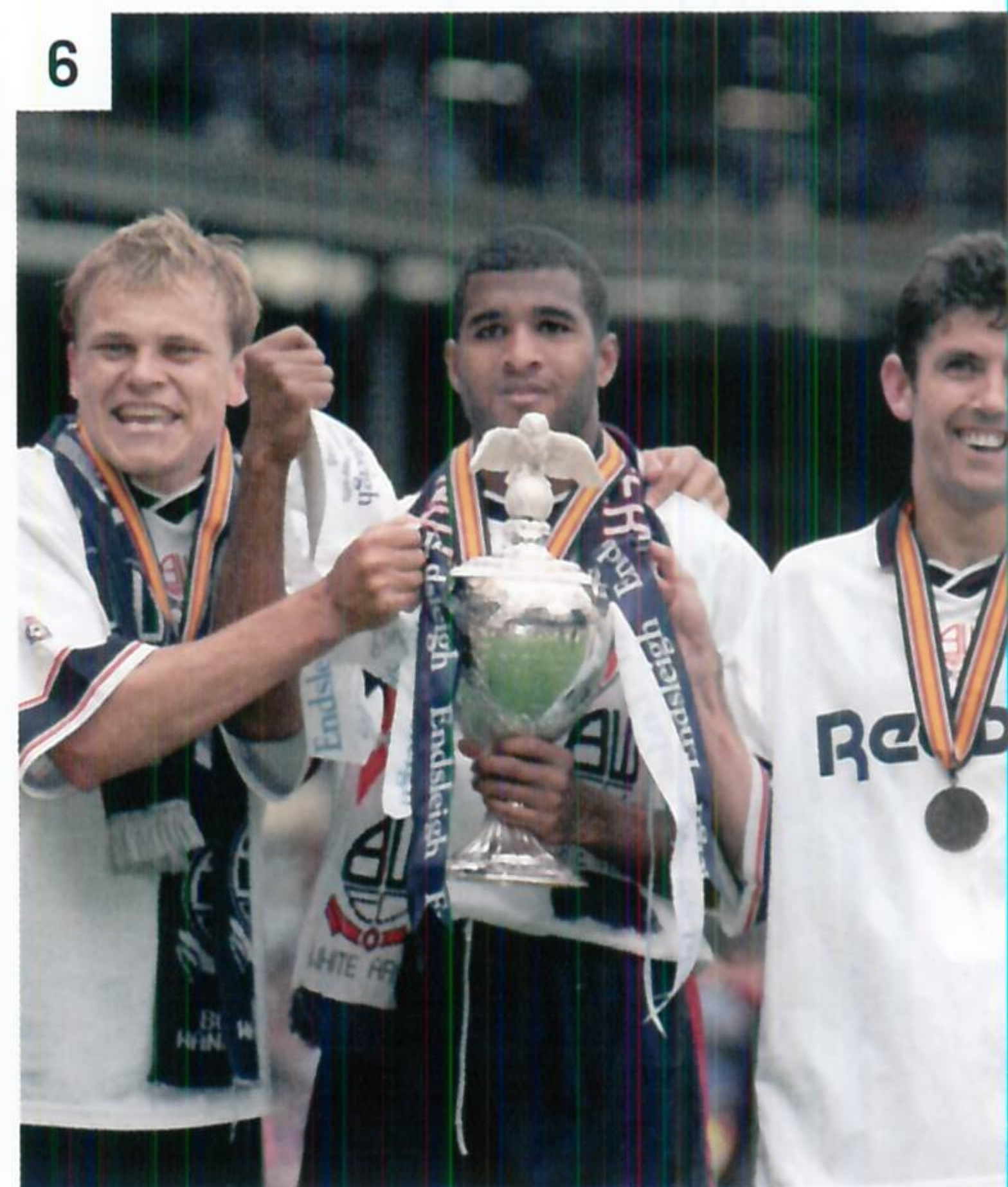
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4



5



6

1) Players enter the fray 2) Players are introduced to dignitaries 3) One of our goalscorers Ady Williams 4) Michael Gilkes and Jason McAteer 5) Fabian de Freitas celebrates 6) Joy for Wanderers



BOLTON

BREAK ROYAL HEARTS

BOLTON WANDERERS

61

There's no doubt that the Royals' 1995 play-off final defeat to Bolton at Wembley still hurts. It was the cruellest of endings to arguably the cruellest of seasons; Gooding and Quinn's Royals had finished second in the second tier, but for one season only the Premier League was being restructured so only one team was promoted automatically. We overcame the first play-off hurdle in some style, winning superbly at Tranmere in the first leg before playing out a draw at Elm Park in the return fixture. So then Wembley beckoned, and we started like a house on fire; going 2-0 up inside 12 minutes thanks to Lee Nogan and Ady Williams. But the turning point came on 34 minutes when Stuart Lovell saw his penalty saved, and he then struck the rebound over the bar after quick thinking by Gooding. The previously silent Wanderers fans were given some hope, although it took until the 76th minute for them to get back into the game through Owen Coyle. Four minutes before the end of normal time Fabian de Freitas struck, and then in injury time of the first period of extra time, Mixu Paatelainen made it 3-2. De Freitas struck again before Quinn fired in in the 119th minute- but it was certainly no consolation, and it took us another 11 years to finally get into the Premier League and overcome the pain of that day at Wembley.



Reading did the double over Bolton in our first Premier League season, and the away game at the Reebok was a top flight classic in the eyes of Royals fans. We went 1-0 down just after the hour following a Nicky Shorey own goal, but with six minutes remaining Kevin Doyle scored from the spot. With time almost up Doyle scored again from close range – and then Stephen Hunt made it 3-1 inside injury time to make it three goals in seven minutes and three points.

TOP FLIGHT RECORD:

PLD: 4 WON: 2 DRAW: 0 LOST: 2

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Saturday 22nd February, 3pm

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LOWER WEST STAND, EAST STAND, NORTH STAND

	MEMBER CARD HOLDERS	IN ADVANCE	MATCHDAY
ADULT	£25	£27	£30
CONCESSIONS (17-21 / 65 & OVER)	£17	£19	£22
16 & UNDER	£10	£11	£12

UPPER WEST STAND

	MEMBER CARD HOLDERS	IN ADVANCE	MATCHDAY
ADULT	£30	£32	£35
CONCESSIONS (17-21 / 65 & OVER)	£22	£24	£27
16 & UNDER	£15	£16	£17

TICKET OFFICE HOURS

Regular opening hours are as follows:

- Monday to Friday: 9am-5pm • Saturday (non-matchdays): 9am-12pm
- Saturday (matchdays): 9am-half time in person; 9am-2pm by phone
- For our Oracle store opening hours, please see www.theoracle.com

TRAVEL

BY CAR: A limited amount of parking is available at Madejski Stadium on a matchday, priced at £10. The majority of spaces are reserved for Season Parking Permit holders and permits are now sold out for the 2013/14 season, so we advise supporters consider one of our off-site car parks. The closest parking is at the old Smallmead Greyhound Stadium (800 spaces priced at £8 per car. Nearby parking is available at Worton Grange (1,000 spaces priced at £8 per car) and Foster Wheeler, Shinfield Park (300 spaces - free to park with a short shuttle bus ride costing £4 for adult returns and £2.50 child returns).

BY BUS: Regular shuttle buses run between the stadium and the town centre. Buses depart from near Reading station, the Old Bus Station, Garrard Street and a frequent service starts two hours prior to kick off. Fares are £4 adult return and £2.50 child return. A full bus service also runs across the local area - for full details on the routes and any further travel or ticket information, please visit the www.readingfc.co.uk.

FAMILY: If you have a child under the age of 8 in your car, you will be eligible to park in our special designated family area at the stadium for £10 - these spaces are available on a first come first served basis.

Reading Post

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THE NEXT THREE



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MILLWALL

Sky Bet Championship

Saturday 1st February, 3pm

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QPR

Sky Bet Championship

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ALL TICKET MATCH: Adults from £25,
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TICKET OFFICE HOURS

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- Monday to Friday: 9am-5pm • Saturday (non-matchdays): 9am-12pm
- Saturday (matchdays): 9am-half time in person; 9am-2pm by phone
- Sunday (non-matchdays): closed • Sunday (matchdays): dependant on KO time

DISABLED TICKETS

For every game, we receive a number of wheelchair and ambulant disabled tickets which are available to purchase by away supporters. Please contact Stacie Browning on 0118 9681006 / disability@readingfc.co.uk to purchase these ahead of each away game advertised.

TRAVEL

For details on how to book a place on one of STAR's coaches this season, prices and departure times, please visit www.star-reading.org or visit the STAR base situated behind the East Terrace.

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NEWS & VIEWS FROM STAR



By Ian Maynard, STAR Board Member



THE MIXED ZONE

I was one of a few dozen Reading fans who took advantage of the "mixed zone" seating at Leicester City on Boxing Day. Rather than be located with the bulk of our own support in the corner we were mixed in with Leicester fans behind the centre of the goal. Not only was it a better viewing position but the tickets were £8 cheaper!

It was quite a weird experience for me. I was suddenly aware that my opinions were not shared by all of those around me and at the start there were a few odd looks. But we all got used to it after 15 minutes or so. Leicester's idea behind this initiative seems to be trying to create a better and more inclusive atmosphere. At STAR we have a very positive opinion of Leicester's stewarding and attitude to away fans. They were brilliant to us on the day we won promotion on 2006 and good ever since so I was quite

willing to give this a try. All the floodlight problems on the day did not really help and I did not find the opportunity or inclination to talk to the home fans in the dark at all. A League game still has very different associations to the way in which fans mix and mingle in tournaments like the World Cup and tensions between rival fans in England are not unknown

**"RETRIEVED
THE
FOOTAGE"**

even in hospitality areas. Whilst I applaud Leicester's efforts I am not sure I would want to repeat the experience. However it is worth noting that Fulham's 'neutral zone' in the Putney End is long-established and appears to work well. STAR would be interested in other Reading supporters' views on this matter: please email us via info@star-reading.org with 'Leicester City mixed zone' in the message line.

SEE ARSENAL FROM 1972!

STAR has managed to retrieve the footage of Reading's FA Cup

4th Round tie with Arsenal in 1972 from the ITV archives. The highlights last half an hour and will be shown for the first time since 1972 at an evening of Cup nostalgia. We also hope to have a Q&A Forum with former Reading players who took part (Gordon Cumming, Will Dixon, John Harley are expected) plus a pictorial look back at Reading's run in the Centenary Year of the FA Cup with Roger Titford.

Date: Weds 5th February 2014 (the 42nd anniversary), doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start. Venue: The Waterhouse Chamber, Reading Town Hall, RG1 1QH. A pay bar will be available on the night. Tickets: A limited number of tickets are available, price £3, from the STAR Base at the Madejski Stadium on match days. Please note there will NOT be copies of the DVD for sale as we do not have the rights for this.

FLANDERS TRIP 2014

A few spaces are left for the STAR coach trip to pay respects at the last resting places of a number of former RFC players who lost their lives during World War I. This trip runs from 30th to 31st May 2014 and includes one night's accommodation. Please see the STAR website for details of the provisional programme and cost. <http://star-reading.org/>

STAR would like to remind supporters that foul, abusive or racist language is not tolerated at Reading Football Club. If you experience any bad language please inform a steward, contact the club's customer service department or text the block, row and seat number in confidence to 07928 140777. You can also report incidents of discrimination via the Kick It Out app - a handy and easy way for matchgoers to report incidents of abuse they see, hear or are on the receiving end of. You can download the app via Apple Store and Google Play.

DISCIPLINE

TOP THREE GOALSCORERS	
ADAM LE FONDRE	7
PAVEL POGREBANYAK	6
DANNY GUTHRIE	4

TOP THREE ASSISTS	
GARATH MCCLEARY	9
HAL ROBSON-KANU	3
PAVEL POGREBNIYAK	3

FIXTURES & RESULTS



SUBS		
DRENTHE	LE FONDRE	FEDERICI, KELLY, GORKSS, WILLIAMS , OBITA , MCANUFF , POGREBNYAK
DRENTHE	BLACKMAN	FEDERICI, KELLY, GORKSS, WILLIAMS , ROBSON-KANU , LE FONDRE , POGREBNYAK
BLACKMAN	LE FONDRE	FEDERICI, KELLY, MARIAPPA, WILLIAMS , MCCLEARY , ROBSON-KANU , POGREBNYAK
DRENTHE	BLACKMAN	FEDERICI, KELLY, GORKSS, WILLIAMS , MCANUFF , LE FONDRE , POGREBNYAK
POGREBNYAK	LE FONDRE	TAYLOR, MORRISON, PEARCE, KARACAN, GUTHRIE, DRENTHE, BLACKMAN
BLACKMAN	LE FONDRE	FEDERICI, MARIAPPA, GORKSS, WILLIAMS , AKPAN , ROBSON-KANU , POGREBNYAK
LE FONDRE	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, BRIDGE , GORKSS, AKPAN, MCANUFF , ROBSON-KANU , BLACKMAN
BLACKMAN	R-KANU	FEDERICI, GUNTER, GORKSS, AKPAN , MCCLEARY , OBITA , LE FONDRE
MCCLEARY	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, CUMMINGS , GORKSS, AKPAN , TSHIBOLA, BLACKMAN , LE FONDRE
LE FONDRE	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, CUMMINGS, KELLY , GORKSS, AKPAN , OBITA , SHARP
LE FONDRE	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, CUMMINGS, GORKSS, AKPAN , OBITA , MCANUFF , SHARP
MCANUFF	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, KELLY, GORKSS, AKPAN , J TAYLOR , BLACKMAN , LE FONDRE
LE FONDRE	POGREBNYAK	S TAYLOR, KELLY, GORKSS, AKPAN , MCANUFF , ROBSON-KANU , BLACKMAN
LE FONDRE	POGREBNYAK	S TAYLOR, KELLY , GORKSS, AKPAN , MCANUFF , ROBSON-KANU , BLACKMAN
R-KANU	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, CUMMINGS, GORKSS, AKPAN , MCANUFF , BLACKMAN , LE FONDRE
R-KANU	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, CUMMINGS, PEARCE, AKPAN , MCANUFF , SHARP , LE FONDRE
LE FONDRE	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, AKPAN , J TAYLOR, WILLIAMS , MCANUFF , BLACKMAN , SHARP
R-KANU	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, CUMMINGS, AKPAN , MCANUFF , BLACKMAN , SHARP , LE FONDRE
SHARP	POGREBNYAK	AKPAN , OBITA, DRENTHE, ROBSON-KANU , BLACKMAN , LE FONDRE
R-KANU	SHARP	FEDERICI, KELLY, MCANUFF , BLACKMAN, DRENTHE , LE FONDRE , POGREBNYAK
SHARP	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, KELLY, AKPAN , MCCLEARY , BLACKMAN , ROBSON-KANU, LE FONDRE
POGREBNYAK	SHARP	FEDERICI, KELLY, AKPAN, OBITA , BLACKMAN, MCCLEARY , LE FONDRE
DRENTHE	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, KELLY, AKPAN, MCCLEARY, J TAYLOR, SHARP , LE FONDRE
SHARP	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, KELLY , AKPAN, J TAYLOR, BLACKMAN , ROBSON-KANU , LE FONDRE
SHARP	POGREBNYAK	FEDERICI, KEOWN, SWEENEY, AKPAN, J TAYLOR , DRENTHE , LE FONDRE
OBITA	LE FONDRE	MCCARTHY, LONG, SWEENEY, TANNER, WILLIAMS , DRENTHE , POGREBNYAK
LE FONDRE	SHARP	FEDERICI, KELLY, CUMMINGS , HECTOR, J TAYLOR , DRENTHE, BLACKMAN

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Leicester	25	17	3	5	46	27	19	54
2 Burnley	25	14	8	3	38	19	19	50
3 QPR	25	14	7	4	29	15	14	49
4 Derby	25	13	5	7	49	34	15	44
5 Nottm Forest	25	10	11	4	35	25	10	41
6 Brighton	25	10	9	6	30	22	8	39
7 Reading	25	10	8	7	32	29	3	38
8 Blackburn	25	10	7	8	31	28	3	37
9 Ipswich	25	9	9	7	37	30	7	36
10 Wigan	24	10	6	8	28	23	5	36
11 Leeds	25	10	5	10	35	34	1	35
12 Huddersfield	25	9	7	9	34	29	5	34
13 Middlesbrough	25	8	9	8	40	33	7	33
14 Blackpool	25	8	8	9	25	31	-6	32
15 Watford	24	7	9	8	35	30	5	30
16 Bournemouth	25	8	6	11	31	44	-13	30
17 Birmingham	25	7	8	10	30	30	0	29
18 Bolton	25	6	10	9	30	35	-5	28
19 Sheff Wed	24	5	10	9	31	32	-1	25
20 Charlton	24	5	9	10	22	30	-8	24
21 Millwall	25	5	7	13	26	50	-24	22
22 Doncaster	25	5	6	14	19	43	-24	21
23 Yeovil	24	4	5	15	19	38	-19	17
24 Barnsley	24	3	8	13	21	42	-21	17

PLAYER STATISTICS

PLAYER	LGE	CUP	GLS	APP	GLS	APP	GLS
	2012/13 SEASON			ROYALS		OVERALL	
ARNOLD	-	-	-	-	-	14(+1)	-
AKPAN	1(+10)	1	-	8(+13)	-	45(+29)	8
ANDERSEN	-	-	-	-	-	81	-
BAIRD	9	-	-	9	-	235(+36)	7
BLACKMAN	7(+10)	1	2	11(+18)	2	83(+50)	31
BRIDGE	9(+1)	-	-	9(+1)	-	416(+39)	9
CARRICO	-	-	-	1(+2)	-	1(+2)	-
CUMMINGS	8(+2)	1	-	74(+4)	-	109(+8)	-
D'ATH	-	-	-	0(+1)	-	23(+6)	3
DRENTHE	10(+2)	(+1)	-	10(+3)	-	24(+16)	4
FEDERICI	2	2	-	193(+3)	1	203(+3)	1
GORKSS	10	2	2	72	7	249(+9)	21
GUNTER	23	2	-	47(+1)	1	233(+21)	3
GUTHRIE	24	-	4	44(+5)	5	178(+29)	15
HECTOR	-	-	-	-	-	81(+3)	5
KARACAN	7	-	2	155(+11)	11	177(+13)	13
KELLY	10(+3)	1	1	29(+3)	1	242(+31)	3
LE FONDRE	10(+9)	2	7	44(+46)	33	248(+132)	153
LEIGERTWOOD	-	-	-	103(+2)	10	363(+49)	26
MCANUFF	9(+6)	-	-	180(+7)	13	464(+63)	51
MCCARTHY	23	-	-	52(+1)	-	119(+2)	-
MCCLEARY	18(+4)	1	2	38(+21)	6	91(+92)	19
MORRISON	15	-	1	35(+2)	4	115(+6)	12
OBITA	11(+2)	2	1	14(+3)	1	30(+15)	6
PEARCE	24	1	-	159(+11)	12	200(+17)	15
POGREBNYAK	18(+3)	1(+1)	6	47(+8)	14	59(+8)	20
ROBERTS	-	-	-	26(+3)	7	406(+106)	164
ROBSON-KANU	11(+7)	1	1	68(+72)	18	107(+76)	27
SAMUEL	-	-	-	0(+1)	-	3(+1)	-
J TAYLOR	0(+3)	1	-	1(+5)	-	40(+14)	4
S TAYLOR	-	-	-	4	-	83 (+7)	0
UGWU	-	-	-	-	-	13(+15)	4
WILLIAMS	11(+6)	1(+1)	-	12(+7)	-	12(+7)	-

WHEN WE CONCEDE



WHEN WE SCORE



ELLAND ROAD TRIUMPH:

The Royals kicked off their 2013/14 Cup campaign in superb fashion, as they cruised past a talented Leeds United side to book a fourth round place.



Harry Cardwell gave the Academy the lead after 16 minutes, finishing coolly after a well worked team move involving Sammi Fridjonsson and Liam Kelly. United grabbed an equaliser as the impressive Eoghan Stokes drove to the edge of the box before sending an unstoppable daisy cutter past Lewis Ward. Leeds did come out of the blocks quickly after the interval, but found themselves behind again, as Reading's latest Icelandic Fridjonsson unleashed his secret weapon!



The technically gifted midfielder hurled a huge, Rory Delap-esque throw into the centre of the box which the home side couldn't deal with, allowing Fosu to bundle home. Kelly made it three by capitalising on some uncertainty from the Leeds backline, and the Royals never looked likely to relinquish their lead - as Cardwell fired wide, before Fosu also missed out on a brace as his long ranger pummelled the crossbar. 3-1 it finished - and certainly a performance to warm the cockles on a freezing cold Yorkshire evening.

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

Manchester United can claim to be the tournament's most successful club, having lifted the trophy on ten occasions. Names to have graced the final include George Best, John Barnes, Ryan Giggs, David Beckham, Frank Lampard, Michael Owen, Steven Gerrard, Wayne Rooney, and Gareth Bale. The current holders are Norwich City, who defeated Chelsea 4-2 in last year's two legged final. Last year the Royals thrashed Brentford 5-1 away from home to progress to the fourth round, only to succumb in somewhat unfortunate fashion to a 2-0 home defeat to Bolton at the next stage.

CREWE ALEXANDRA ACADEMY



Crewe are sure to provide a tough test for the Royals in the fourth round. They currently sit second in the U18 Premier Development League 2, North - though have three games in hand over leaders Huddersfield. This season they have already defeated Birmingham, Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest.

EPPP Status:

Category 2 (Provisional)

Third Round Clash:

Bristol Rovers 1 - 2 Crewe Alexandra

Notable Alumni:

Danny Murphy, Dean Ashton, David Vaughan

YOUTH CUP ON WEDNESDAY

NOW IN ITS 62ND YEAR – THE FA YOUTH CUP IS A KEY DATE IN THE CALENDAR OF ANY YOUNG SCHOLAR. THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT HAS GOT OFF TO A FINE START..... CAN THE ROYALS PROGRESS FURTHER?



READING VS CREWE, WED 22ND JAN, 7PM, MADEJSKI STADIUM

The Royals take on highly-respected Crewe this coming Wednesday at Madejski Stadium in the fourth round of the FA Youth Cup. The East Stand is open and entry is just £3 adults and £1 concessions, with free parking – make sure you get down to roar the youngsters on! It's bound to be a cracking night and we'd love your support. The draw for round five has already been made – meaning that either the Royals or the Railwaymen will be at home against Accrington Stanley or Bristol



City. Accrington pulled off arguably the shock of the round by defeating West Ham United after extra time last time out! Any potential fifth round clash would need to be played by 15th February 2014.

STRIKERS

HAMMAD LAWAL
AGE: 17
FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR

Very fast wide player in the same mould as the likes of Aaron Lennon. Currently learning about the game and patterns of play.



TOMAS URBANCIC
AGE: 17
FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR

Islandic wide man who can also play off the striker. Very raw, talented winger who is progressing well and learning the game. He has played ten games for his national team both with U17 and U18 and scored two goals against Sweden. Made his first under-18s appearance last week, coming off the bench at Aston Villa.



AMADU WARTAY
AGE: 17
FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR

Midfielder signed from Crystal Palace. Amadu has a very good shape and moves well on and off the ball. He's learning the game and has the potential to really take off as a player.



HARRY GARDWELL
AGE: 17
FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR

Very powerful centre forward signed from Hull City in the summer of 2013. A strong striker with good movement, Harry has scored three times for our under-18s this season – including finishing off a well worked move straight from kick off at West Brom.



DANIEL WILLIAMS
AGE: 17
FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR

Front man who can play through the middle or on the wing. Daniel a very fast, versatile player who is learning the game quickly.



SHPAT ISMAJLI
AGE: 18
SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

An attacking player who likes to get in behind the defence. Scored a fantastic solo goal against Wolves last season after a jinking run. Has now been with the club since 2009, and scored early in 2013/14 away at Fulham before netting two penalties at Southampton.



DE'JAUNE TAYLOR-CROSSDALE
AGE: 18
SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

Front man who has been at Reading since 2010. De'Jaune can devastate teams on his day and could become a top player if he can consistently perform to his highest standard. Scored for the under-18s in the first game of the season, a 3-1 win over Bolton Wanderers.



BOGDAN VASTSUK
AGE: 18
SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

Estonian striker who is learning the English language. Caught the eye on a trial and is looking to kick on. Very talented player with good vision and awareness.

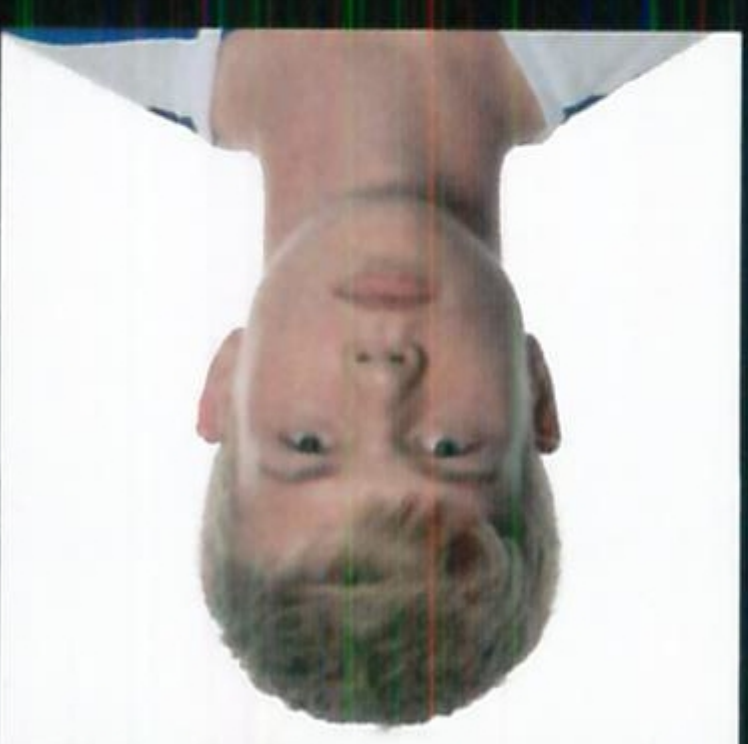


SAMMI FRIDONSSON

AGE: 17

SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

Icelandic midfielder, also comfortable in defence, signed from Keflavik FC on professional contract in the summer of 2012.



Has already represented his country at under-19 level, and has scored for his national under-17 side. Has impressed for the Academy this season, particularly in our FA Youth Cup third round win over Leeds United at Elland Road. Made his first appearance for Reading's under-21s in January 2014, in a 2-2 draw at Chelsea.

TARIQE FOSU

AGE: 18

SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

A talented winger who possesses skills and pace, Tariqe first left an impression on supporters in a under-16s friendly against



Watford at Madejski Stadium in May 2012. Played for the under-18s regularly as a first year scholar in 2012/13 as the side reached the Barclays Premier League final. Scored in the FA Youth Cup third round against Leeds United at Elland Road in December 2013, and scored his first goal for the under-21s in January 2014 away at Chelsea.

CONDOR SHAUGHNESSY

AGE: 17

SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

Towering Irish player who joined the Royals Academy in 2012 after a successful trial amid interest from several other clubs. Has



represented Republic of Ireland at under-15 level, scoring a wonder goal against the Quatar! Aspire Academy in 2010. Signed a professional contract with the Royals last summer and made a bright start to the 2013/14 campaign, netting twice in a 3-1 win over Wolves.

JACK JEFFREY

AGE: 17

SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

Joined the Academy in April 2012 after impressing when playing against the scholars in a friendly match. Jack is an agile player who has a good eye for goal.



GERMAINE OFORI

AGE: 18

SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

An attacking player who joined the Academy late in 2011. Germaine best suits playing as part of a front three, either on the wing or through the middle. He is a direct player who can put fear into the eyes of defenders.



NOOR HUSIN

AGE: 16

FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR

First year midfielder with clear talent who has played for the under-18s on many occasions this season and has caught the eye, with two goals to his name so far.



JAKE SHEPPARD

AGE: 16

FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR

Youngster who has recently recovered from a nasty injury, but played for the under-17s away at Manchester City - and was



picked out by one of their coaches as a top player as the Royals won comfortably.

LEWIS COLLINS

AGE: 17

FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR

Young prospect signed from Grimsby in summer 2013. A top professional who tries to do everything right and has been called



up to Northern Ireland's under-19s squad.

MIDFIELDERS

JACK STACEY

AGE: 17

SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR



Technically gifted and extremely versatile player comfortable anywhere in midfield, off the striker or at full-back. Composed

on the ball and always full of energy, Jack has been with the club since 2004 and has also featured for our under-21s team during 2013/14. Along with Aaron Kuhl, Jack signed his first professional contract in December 2013.

AARON KUHLM

AGE: 17

SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR AND

CAPTAIN



Centre midfielder who

defends well and can also get forward. Aaron is the son of Under-21s Coach

Martin Kuhl and joined the club in 2008. He made his breakthrough in 2011/12 when he made his debut for the under-18s in the final match against Birmingham. Though only a first year scholar, Aaron was captain of the under-18s during the 2012/13 season in which the side reached the Barclays Premier League final. Still Academy skipper, Aaron now also regularly features for our under-21s team.

LIAM KELLY

AGE: 18

SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR



Attacking midfielder who has come through the ranks of the Academy since joining in 2004 as an eight-year-old. He is a

pint-sized player who is one of the Royals Academy's quickest. Has good vision for a young player and a wide range of passes at his disposal. Has played for the Republic of Ireland at youth level and scored his first international goal from the halfway line, just two months after scoring a sensational self set-up free kick for our under-18s. Signed a professional contract with the Royals in November 2013.

GEORGE MCLENNAN

AGE: 18

SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR



Tall left-back who joined the Academy from Gillingham in April 2012. George is going from strength to strength after converting from a wide player to full back, and has a great deal of pace. Has only missed one game this season for the under-18s.

TENNAI WATSON

AGE: 16

FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR



Talented and very versatile first year scholar, who has represented the under-18s on many occasions this season. He impressed this season in our 4-2 win at Manchester City, shining against their star player.

ZAK JULES

AGE: 16

FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR



Left-footed centre back who joined the Royals in summer 2013. He has a good attitude towards learning and is working on his defensive positions and distribution.

MARC ETHELSTON

AGE: 16

FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR



Young centre back who is very reliable and good with one-on-ones. He's learning to distribute the ball from the back in matches and has potential. Has been with the club since the age of eight.

MEET THE ACADEMY

GOALKEEPERS

LEWIS WARD
FIRST YEAR SCHOLAR
AGE: 16

Gifted shot-stopper who has played for England at youth level. Lewis is a young goalkeeper with a great physique and he's progressing well on the physical side of the game. Has regularly featured for our Academy during the 2013/14 season.



ALEXANDER GOGIC
SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR
AGE: 17

Arrived in summer 2013 from USA, Alexander is a young goalkeeper who is working hard to progress after coming into the programme late. Has been part of the USA's Soccer Development Academy and was also involved in the youth set up with MLS side New York Red Bulls. Has gained experience out on loan with Holyport recently.



GEORGE LEGG
AGE: 17
SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

Another young shot-stopper with a good physique. Nicknamed 'Leggy', George is working hard to progress in our successful goalkeeping department.



DEFENDERS

NANA OWUSU
AGE: 17
SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

Athletic full back who has been with the Royals since 2006. Originally a winger, Nana excels with the ball and has all the necessary physical attributes. Powerful going forwards but also very confident defending, particularly in one-v-one scenarios.



ROB DICKIE
AGE: 17
SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

A tall central defender with all the required physical attributes of a modern footballer. He is strong, quick off the mark and agile. Rob has been with the Reading Academy since he was eight years old, has scored twice for the under-18s this year, and is the only player to have featured in every game so far this campaign.



DOM HYAM
AGE: 18
SECOND YEAR SCHOLAR

A cultured, tall centre-back who joined the club in 2008. Formed an excellent central defensive partnership with Jake Cooper throughout the 2012/13 season, where the under-18s reached the Barclays Premier League Final.



Dom is vice-captain of the Academy and signed his first professional contract with the Royals in November 2013.

vocational-based topics they study are all related to their daily life and this nurtures their awareness and understanding of the requirements of an elite performer."

Gone are the days where a youngster without a professional contract was left high and dry, with an increasing social conscience meaning clubs are ensuring those who don't quite make the cut will still be on a positive future path.

"We offer support with 'next steps' and progression routes if a player does not get offered a further contract following the completion of their apprenticeship. This includes assessment trials, careers events and opportunities to gain football scholarships overseas."

That social conscience doesn't stop there. In the modern world of social media and close press scrutiny, never before have young sportsman been so under the spotlight.

"Our informal education and Lifestyle Management Programme offers a more holistic approach to a professional lifestyle & behaviour off the pitch," explains Will.

"To this end we provide seminars and practical workshops on equality and diversity, money skills, mental health, sexual health, and careers guidance to name but a few. Overall, the provision allows the players to be better prepared for work, whether that is in professional football, or in other career areas. It encourages the lads to be reflective so they can continue to develop and improve. It just tries to raise the awareness of off the pitch aspects of football to make them more rounded individuals."



ACADEMY CAPTAIN AARON KUHL



"I really enjoy doing the NVQ's - it's good to know after my career is over, or if for some reason it doesn't work - I have something to fall back on. Being out on that training field is what it's all about, but we know how important getting a good education is. The staff and facilities we have here are fantastic."



MORE THAN 90 MINUTES

ASK FANS TO DESCRIBE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACADEMY STARLET, AND THEY WOULD RIGHTLY ENVISION A FOCUS ON POWER, TECHNIQUE AND TACTICAL NOUS.

The vision of the next generation of Royals players listening intently in a seminar may not spring instantly to mind – but it's certainly not an uncommon sight at Hogwood Park.

Psychology for Sports Performance, Anatomy, Physiology and Lifestyle. The players enjoy fully equipped facilities with interactive Smartboards, laptops, VLE access and of course textbooks.

"I think it's really important to educate the young lads, so that if they get to professional level they have a greater appreciation and are more rounded individuals," explained Academy Education Officer Will Bratt.

Achieving Excellence in Sports Performance. (Performance & Excellence Pathway) & NVQs in – studying for a BTEC Level 3 Sport Diploma

FC Scholars spend between nine and twelve hours a week off the training pitch and in the classroom

The subjects, whilst varied, also main highly relevant to their lifestyle – including Sports Nutrition, "It allows them to develop an appropriate underpinning knowledge of their environment as a Scholarship player and potential professional. The academic and



defender Michael Hector, recently back from an impressive loan spell with Aberdeen, was 17 when he was spotted playing for Thurrock and brought down to Hogwood Park. The network stretches far beyond the Berkshire borders – and of course international success has been key in the past. Gyfi! Sigurdsson arrived in his mid-teens, whilst more recent recruits include the likes of Icelandic Sammi Fridjonsson and Estonian Bogdan Vastuk.

"We have a local, national and international scouting plan. Scouts across the country look for older players and really we are ready to recruit them at any stage. You get players who come in a little later, like Michael did. You're always scouting players of all ages all the time. Football now is a global game and you have to keep building and evolving on that without dismissing your domestic success."

For more information on our Academy Partners or recruitment details – please visit the Academy section of readingfc.co.uk.



Lee Herron and Jack Stacey



Hector was spotted at a later age than most



Jordan Obita right back in 2008

"Below each Academy side, at whatever age group, there are development centres and a shadow squad. It gives everyone an opportunity to get used to the environment, as it's daunting for any young player to come into a system such as a category one academy. You have to think of the emotional and social impact, not just the football impact on the boy. It takes some time. The idea is to have little stepping stones and to help the boy be successful when he comes into the Academy itself."

As always in our Academy, there are too many individuals to name everyone involved in bringing a player to the club – be it Nick Hammond, Colin Barnes, Brendan Flanagan, Steve Birchmore or one of the countless others working tirelessly for the club – but suffice to say it is a real team effort.

Of course for every Jake Taylor, Jordan Obita or Craig Tanner, all of whom enjoyed over a decade in the Academy – there are players who are spotted at a much later stage. All have to be catered for, young



Sammi Fridjonsson is a recent international recruit

CASTING THE NET

WITH ALMOST 200 YOUNGSTERS PLAYING THEIR TRADE AT THE ROYALS ACADEMY, RECRUITMENT IS VITAL TO ALLOW THE CLUB TO COMPETE WITH THE BEST....BUT HOW DO WE FIND THE NEXT FIRST TEAM STAR?

Jake Taylor was just eight years of age when his dream began to take shape. An eagle eyed Royals scout cast his eye over the youngster as he impressed in a tournament with Ascot United, and the rest, as they say, is history. A stroke of luck for both parties? Apparently not. As Assistant Academy Manager Lee Herron tells us, the Reading Football Club scouting system leaves nothing to chance.

"Local scouting is split up into regions, regional scouts focus mainly on their specific area and in turn have a group of scouts underneath them," he explains.

"They're out looking in the parks, networking with schools and more than ever going to football businesses that have access to young players. It's a much bigger scope now than when it used to be just park football."

The attributes that catch the eye of our comprehensive network are also carefully thought out, with scouts rating each player by a system known as the 'three sevens'.



Jake Taylor was spotted playing for Ascot United

"They grade each player they see and put a report into us. It's based on how they take and deal with the ball, how they move and what their spirit is like. That's the baseline criteria we look at.



Craig Tanner signs paperwork in 2006, aged just 12

Such raw talent needs to be nurtured. Players can be spotted at just six years of age, and in the modern game they must be handled with exceptional care. "We have stepping stones. At such an early stage we're just looking at potential players. We look at the reports and then decide where we feel they need to enter the system. Some may well come straight to train with the Academy; the youngest we can sign a player is to our under nines, that's when you can officially bring them in. Before that we have pre-Academy groups from six to eight.

CATEGORY ONE

CATEGORY ONE

The recent introduction of the Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP) made sweeping changes to the way youth football was run across the 92 Premier League and Football League clubs. Amongst other alterations, a four-tier academy system was adopted, with the highest rated academies decided by a rigorous audit.

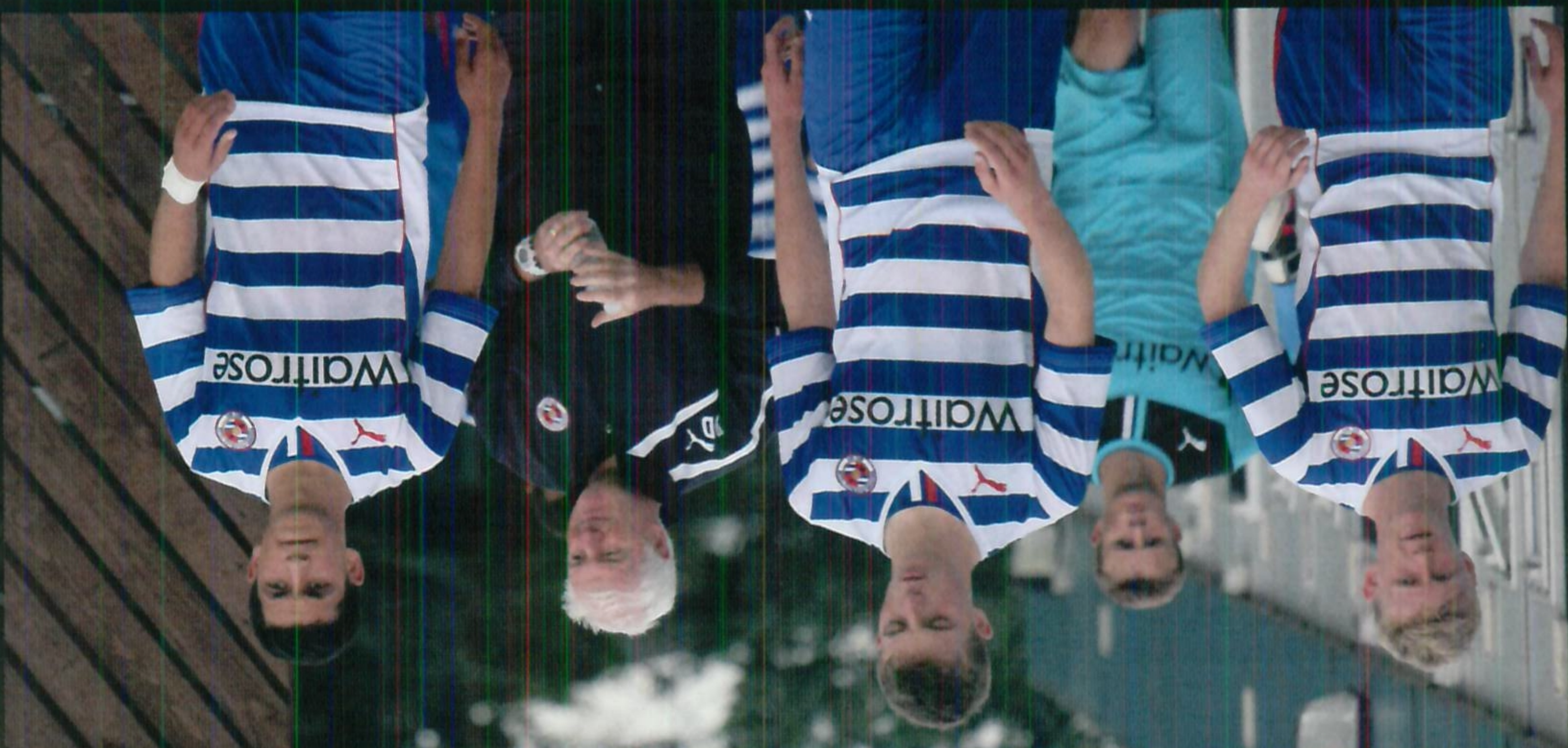
The Royals were hugely proud to be placed amongst the country's elite – as they were placed into 'Category One' after meeting the highest standards in football and coaching philosophy, facilities, personnel, and player development.

It ensures we have fixtures against the very best Academies in the country, the ability to attract and retain the very best players nationwide, and far more contact time between our coaches and players. Reading join only a handful of Championship clubs to make the grade – alongside top level sides such as Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea.

Our Academy has already grown beyond all recognition since the start of the EPPP with the addition of new staff, facilities and plans for a new training ground, and confirmation of Category One has seen the development continue at great pace.

Speaking earlier this season, Director of Football Nick Hammond said: "An enormous amount of work has gone in from an enormous amount of people, and it's really important that the supporters recognise what a big achievement this is, and what a big statement it is from the club. "It was a big decision to have an Academy many years ago, and people will realise that was a correct decision. The same point remains here, it's a big commitment by the club but it allows us to compete at the highest level in youth football, to attract players and to progress. I'm delighted.

"It's going to be the very elite of football development and there are an enormous amount of criteria to even apply for Category One. There's a large amount of investment behind that, whether it's facilities, staff, and it will continue to grow. Kids will now be on a fuller programme, with much more contact time with players. It's widely recognised and understood that more coaching time gives you a chance of better players. It's about practice, practice, practice. You need a large amount of staff, coaching, medical, sport science, analysis, and facilities of the highest level."



10 YEARS IN THE ACADEMY

WITH ACADEMY DIRECTOR EAMONN DOLAN'S TEETH FIRMLY STUCK INTO HIS TENTH SEASON AT READING, WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK INTO A VITAL COG BEHIND OUR INCREASINGLY SUCCESSFUL YOUTH SYSTEM....



Born in Ireland, Eamonn began his football career as an Academy graduate of West Ham United. After brief periods at Bristol City on loan and at Birmingham City, joined Exeter City – marking the beginning of a 13-year association with the club.

Dolan graced the St James Park pitch for two seasons before his playing career was cut short when he developed cancer. Thankfully Eamonn survived the condition, and after his testimonial between Exeter and West Ham, he remained at the club in a number

of coaching positions before finally being appointed full-time manager after the Grecians were relegated from the Football League in 2003.

Eamonn steadied the Exeter ship in his first campaign in management as he almost guided the Devon side to the play-offs, before leaving his post to join the Royals as Academy manager.

Over the past decade, Dolan has been a key figure in the sustained development of top Barclays Premier League players Gylfi Sigurdsson and Shane Long, current Reading stars Alex Pearce, Hal Robson-Kanu and Jem Karcan, and more recently Alex McCarthy, Jake Taylor and Jordan Obita.

He took the hot seat for the Royals' top flight trip to Manchester United as Caretaker Manager in March 2013, and was perhaps somewhat unlucky to lose 1-0 at Old Trafford to the eventual Champions.

As were a great number of Royals staff down at Hogwood Park, Eamonn was massively influential securing that our Academy was awarded the highest possible rating of Category One.

Achieving Category One status was a strategic goal for the club, and achieving that goal ensures that our Academy is at the forefront of youth development in this country and further afield.

Ablly assisted by David Dodds and Lee Herron – alongside terrific support from Director of Football Nick Hammond and Manager Nigel Adkins, Eamonn continues to be the spearhead behind our increasingly successful Academy, and we congratulate him on his tenth season with the Royals.



THE ACADEMY

Whether it's the Class of '92 or Barcelona's famed 'La Masia' set up – there's a certain mystique around football clubs breeding their own. Gone perhaps are the days when title winning teams were entirely comprised of players who were born a few miles down the road, but the importance of youth is rarely underestimated. Supporters will always feel an undeniable pang of nostalgia when a young man emerges from the Academy ranks into the world of first team football – and plenty of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure that those dreams are allowed to prosper. In recent years the Royals have gained plenty of admiration for their production line of budding stars and can consider themselves on a par with the finest set ups in the country. But what does it take to nurture tomorrow's talent? Read on....

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EMPHASIS ON YOUTH

How we create the stars of the future



SHOWCASE

THE ROYAL